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## Bonn-East Berlin links raise fears of German reunification

**Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger**

It is difficult to understand why the whole world is suddenly talking about German reunification as if it has suddenly become a realistic possibility.

There has been some ritual reference on the matter by Bonn, but despite this it has been a dormant issue here for a long time.

No one has ever seriously talked about the practical possibility of united the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic to form a new German nation-state.

Detente, the relaxing or easing of tensions between nations, would still appear to the rest of the world to have the character of a conspiracy if the nations involved are German.

The whole thing began to snowball after accusations by Moscow that the Federal Republic of Germany was steering a revanchist course. Warsaw and Prague supported this line.

The primary motive behind the Soviet moves soon became apparent. Moscow is afraid that the GDR might pay too much attention to its own interests and pull out of the Warsaw Pact convoy.

The accusation of revanchism, therefore, has also been clearly levelled albeit indirectly against the comrades in East Berlin.

However, anyone who merely rejects the accusation as utterly unjustifiable is oversimplifying the matter. Any form of cooperation between the two Germanies arouses the suspicion in Eastern Europe that the Germans could once again become so strong that they might contemplate pushing through their own interests at the expense of other nations.

Now the topic has also been put on the agenda in the West.

A respected American newspaper, the *New York Times*, which in other cases usually checks statements by Moscow to separate the wheat from the propaganda chaff, this time recalled Hitler's demand for *Lebensraum* (literally: living space) and compared it with the *Spielraum*, the room to move, which both German states are trying to establish, wedged as they are between the two superpowers.

Although Germans on both sides realise that a "re-marriage is impossible", many succumb to the dream, or nightmare, of a reunited Germany.

These Germans apparently "feel that it was their fathers who lost the Second World War, not themselves".

The remark by the SPD's top candidate in Berlin, Hans Apel, that the German question is "no longer an open issue" is the last thing we need.

After all, there was no real need for such a comment. It cannot be assumed that Apel wanted to allay fears of revanchism in the East or in the West by stating that the German question, i.e. reunification, has been filed away and is void of current relevance.


**Budapest support for East Berlin; Belgrade goes into bat for GDR. – Page 3**


Another effect triggered by Apel's statement has been to provoke the adamant commitments to reunification by conservative hard-liners. Alfred Dregger (CDU), for example, emphasised "that Germany still exists" and that there is a "German nationality", namely that the Federal Republic of Germany, which also covers Germans in the GDR.

No-one believes that the revival of this well-worn discussion will in the least way benefit rapprochement between the German states. However, it is obvious that it gives those who accuse the Germans of sinister intentions plenty to talk about.

A glance at the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany reveals the absurdity of the whole dispute. In the preamble to the law, which came into force in 1949, we find the following: "The whole German people is called upon to bring about the unity and freedom of Germany in free self-determination." The Federal Constitutional Court interpreted this sentence to be a "call for reunification" and bound all Federal governments to make efforts to effect that reunification.

This, however, has not in the past prevented the Soviet Union from accepting the Federal Republic as a partner in peaceful cooperation, not to mention Bonn's western allies.

What is more, any suspicion that the current West German government intends to go it alone in any effort to reunite the two German states can be categorically ruled out.

Foolish polemics of the kind now introduced into the discussion by Hans Apel only blur the issue. Any unbiased onlooker will find sufficient evidence that, when the government or the oposition talk of reunification, they are referring to a "European solution", a convergence between the two German states which would be guaranteed the support of Bonn's neighbours both in the East and in the West.

Anyone who evokes up the nightmare of a camaraderie between Bonn and East Berlin also overlooks the motives of the East German party leadership.

It's ultimate aim in cooperating with Bonn is not to achieve a reunification but to strengthen its own power.




**The spectre**
(Cartoon: Hanel/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

This leads to the contradiction which critics in both East and West would soon realise if they began arguing more rationally rather than emotionally.

They claim that Germans harbour a blind urge for reunification, which could transcend all existing realities. They underline, on the one hand, that such a reunification is impossible, since - apart from the fundamental differences in the social systems - the world could not tolerate a reunited Germany. Yet, on the other hand, they warn against such a reunited Germany, as if the Germans were able to reestablish such a status against the will of other nations.

What Bonn and East Berlin are practising at the moment is no more than détente.

However, détente, the relaxing or easing of tension between nations, would still appear to the rest of the world to have the character of a conspiracy if these two nations happen to be German.

*Hans Werner Kettenbach*
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 August 1984)

## IN THIS ISSUE



## Land that locked itself in and threw keys away

Twenty-three years have passed since the Berlin Wall was built. Since then, the technical level of border security has become constantly better so that the number of refugees fleeing to the West decreases every year.

The dismantling of the automatic firing devices on the inner-German border and the less indiscriminate use by the GDR border guards of their firearms cannot alter the fact that this border is a symbol of inhumanity.

The existence of a wall and of "protective" reinforcement devices straddling the border between both German states is an expression of the extreme mistrust which still exists between the East German leadership and the people of the GDR.

Although in comparison with other Eastern bloc states the GDR has a high (and growing) standard of living this basic mistrust has not changed since the Wall was built. The party leadership mistrusts the people, who are kept in tutelage, controlled and politically spoon-fed, and the people mistrust its leaders, whose promises it cannot believe and which it has learnt to fear.

Erich Honecker, once commissioned by former East German leader Walter Ulbricht to organise the building of the Berlin Wall, has tried to gain the trust of the people since he took over as party leader in 1971.

He hoped that his economic policies, aimed at increasing the standard of living, and his Westpolitik, his policy of cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, would make it easy to do so.

However, what enrages the people in the GDR most is that they are virtually imprisoned in their own country - Honecker has not changed this fact.

The longer the wall stands, the less people on both sides of it believe that it will one day disappear.

Even if Honecker wanted to pull it down, he would not dare do so.

For if the citizens of the GDR were suddenly allowed to travel freely, many would stay in the West, not because they no longer want to live in East Germany (most of them have accepted the situation there), but because they are distrustful of their leaders, who might just as suddenly reverse the decision.

It looks as if the East German leadership walled itself in on August 13, 1961.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 August 1984)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

# EEC and central American states in an historic assignation

The first conference between foreign ministers of the EEC and Central American states is to be in San José, the capital of Costa Rica, next month.

There have been several postponements for one reason or another.

Together with the Central American states proper, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, the four Contadora countries - Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela and Panama - will also be attending the conference.

The EEC ministers part will be accompanied by delegates from Portugal and Spain.

Europe hopes to demonstrate that it does not intend to steal away from, and is willing to accept, its fair share, its responsibilities in Central America.

The major initiative for this conference was taken by West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has been untiring in his efforts to turn this plan into reality.

Genscher will fly down to San José immediately after his appearance at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The recent state visits to major European capitals by the Presidents of Costa Rica and El Salvador, Monge and Duarte, have added impetus to the idea of a Central American Conference.

In particular, Napoleon Duarte has emphasised the need to revive the Central American Common Market (MCCA), set up by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guetemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in 1960. After a dynamic "take-off" phase, which primarily benefitted El Salvador and Guatemala, the MCCA began to flag during the seventies.

The old, and currently insignificant, Bank for Central American Integration might be able to invigorate developments in this field.

The Bonn Foreign Office will be preparing its topics for the conference over the next few weeks. Genscher is expected to propose a cooperation model along the lines of the existing form of cooperation between the EEC and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei. This cooperation framework is viewed as very successful by Bonn.

For the five MCCA states, the EEC is second only to the USA in its importance as a sales market and foreign investor.

In 1982 MCCA group imports from the EEC were worth DM910m. Their exports to the EEC were worth DM1,970m.

The Federal Republic of Germany is the most important trading partner for this group in the EEC.

Last year, West Germany imports from these five countries amounted to DM982m, exports to DM380m.

West Germany's most important export partner is Guatemala, its most important import partner El Salvador.

Almost 85 per cent of imports from Latin America already either enter the EEC duty-free or are subject to a tariff of 5 per cent or under.

The EEC, associated with more than 60 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific via the Lomé Convention, at the same time created a special framework for cooperation with those developing countries not a party to the Lomé agreement, the Generalised System of Preferences.

It has applied to Latin America since 1971 and covers all industrial processed goods (exempt of duty) and a large part of the agricultural and tropical processed goods (either duty-free or a reduced tariff).

Up to now, the Latin Americans have taken full advantage of the preference regulations granted them by the EEC.

Between 1979 and 1983 the EEC provided assistance to Central America to the tune of DM560m, most of which was in the form of financial and technical aid or food aid at world market prices.

Over the same period, the ECC provided only DM325m to South America, which shows that the ECC aid has placed greater emphasis on Central America.

It is doubtful whether the EEC will be able to go beyond the extent of previous payments in view of its currently strained budget.

In particular, Britain insists upon a realistic appraisal of the situation.

A great deal would suggest that during the pre-conference "briefing" at the beginning of September Germany's foreign minister Genscher will advocate a cooperation agreement, which will comprise greater development aid.

The conference will be more of a signal than anything else, a sign that the European Community will be attaching even greater importance to the Central American region in future.

Costa Rica has already asked for a follow-on conference to be staged next year, which could put the Europeans under a certain pressure to take action rather than just make statements.

The conference will also be discussing the "File for Peace and Cooperation in Central America" drawn up by the Contadora states.

This paper is an attempt to establish a comprehensive basis for a peaceful solution to conflicts in Central America.

It relates to all major problems - curity, armed forces, foreign policy, ternal policy by forming "verifica- and control commissions".

However, no Central American co- try has yet ratified the document.

The greatest misgivings are expre- by Nicaragua, which above all re- any control of its military action.

The Central American Confere- could attempt to lever Managua into cepting the paper, although it is ve- doubtful whether Nicaragua wants or indeed is able to, change the cour- is pursuing.

The North Americans are not tak- part in the conference. Up to now th- have been no official statements fr- Washington on the projected conf- ence.

However, Washington is known harbour an uneasy feeling about t- European initiative in an area which regards as its own sphere of influence.

It cannot be ruled out that a Nica- guan foreign minister - perhaps eve- Greek foreign minister - may is- statements which will meet with a neg- tive response in Washington.

Even French foreign minister, Clau- Cheysson, has strongly criticised t- policies in Latin America.

One can only hope that the more l- sighted delegates at the conference w- steer clear of any blatantly anti-Ame- can waters.

*Hildegard Stausberg*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze- für Deutschland, 8 August 1-

# Brussels steps up pace on Spain, Portugal

Negotiations for Spain and Portugal to join the EEC are to be completed after six years of to-ing and fro-ing.

The most difficult issue is the complicated one of farm produce. Progress is still bogged down.

However, by the end of September the complicated contracts must be ready to sign so that the Community of Ten can become the Community of Twelve by the beginning of 1986.

This, at any rate, is the way the schedule is planned by the EEC heads of government.

However, it has almost become a matter of principle in the EEC not to meet deadlines, and even the holiday eager-beavering of EEC expert cannot rule out that this tradition will be upheld.

It does show, however, that both sides are genuinely interested in seeking a solution to many outstanding problems still facing the third EEC enlargement (Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the Community in 1973 and Greece in 1981).

The main bone of contention during coming months will again be the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The integration of the Iberian newcomers into the immensely complex system of market regulations is probably the most tricky issue for the treaties of accession. Negotiations on this point are still bogged down in their early stages.

Above all, France is worried about the new competition for its own farmers from its southern neighbours.

In the past, the government in Paris has used all possible diplomatic tricks to delay agricultural policy negotiations.

The Federal Republic of Germany, on the other hand, feels that a southward enlargement of the European Community is definitely expedient both in terms of foreign and security policies.

It is not that long since Spain and Portugal ousted their military rulers and established parliamentary democracy.

An admission of these two countries to the EEC provides an opportunity to strenghten these young democracies on Southern Europe.

In Spain's case, Nato membership and its military integration within the western alliance are also at risk.

Madrid has made no secret of the fact that EEC and Nato membership are two sides of the same coin.

For Helmut Kohl and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, therefore, there can only be one conclusion: the strengthening of western defence and the protection of long-term foreign policy interests must not be endangered by petty squabbling over agricultural policy.

In the meantime, Francois Mitterrand has endorsed this view. Nevertheless, his government is still interested in turning the German interest in a speedy conclusion to the negotiations into financial gain.

In order to make the southward enlargement of the EEC an "acceptable" proposition to the French farmers, wine, vegatable and olive growers are to receive new subsidies.

In addition, Paris aims to block the access of the entry candidates to the EEC's agricultural market for the first few years.

Spain and Portugal are to be compensated via financial contributions from Brussels.

Money instead of trade - a considerable burden for the already overstretched EEC budget.

And with the Federal Republic of Germany always in the front ranks when a paymaster is needed to foot the bills, the outcome of negotiations during the coming weeks could turn out to be an expensive business for Bonn.

The financial angle is not the o- risk-laden aspect of EEC southward e- largement.

The accession of new members n- only means an expansion of the Com- munity but also a fundamental change- its character.

There will be a shift of political e- phasis in a southerly direction; th- Community will cease to be just a cl- for the rich Central Europeans.

Greater importance will be attach- to regional and development policies.

The standard of living in the pro- vinces of Portugal, for example, is only- tenth of the level in a German city.

More and more of the EEC budg- will have to be used to close this pro- perity gap.

Yet more important still is the fa- that an expansion of the Communi- will make the coordination and dec- sion-making process even more ponde- ous.

If ten partners find it impossible agree on many issues, how are twe- expected to reach a common denomi- tor?

The political integration of the Eur- pean Community, as envisaged by Ad- nauer and Schumann, recedes furth- and further into the distance with ea- new enlargement.

*Uwe Vorkötter*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 August 19-

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■ EUROPE

# An official explanation of Budapest's support for East Berlin

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

There can be no talk of chance when our media springs to the defence of East Germany. With us it is a question of guarding our own interests and we are happy when Moscow and Prague cease to concentrate their distrust on us alone but also on their colleagues in East Berlin."

With these words a leading economic affairs official in Budapest revealed the background to Hungary's support of East Germany in an article in the trades union magazine *Nepszava* commenting on the attacks on East Germany by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia because of its closer economic ties with the Federal Republic.

Informed sources in Budapest make no secret of the fact that behind the scenes this socialist press war is not only about economic but also political questions.

The view is that East Berlin is striving to pursue reform policies similar to those in Budapest. Hungary has found the ideal trading partner in Austria, opening doors for Hungary to Western markets and guaranteeing billions in credits.

East Berlin would like to follow the same path in relations with the Federal Republic.

It is no wonder then that East Berlin has come into Moscow's and Prague's firing line. It recalls the Czech campaign against the "Hungarian way" that was waged in the Czech press and reproduced in Soviet publications.

Prague and then Moscow have labelled Budapest's economic reforms and economic tries with the West as incompatible with socialist dogma. A similar process is taking place in East Berlin.

The point of departure was the Kremlin's efforts to bring about integration within Comecon so as to deploy the export volumes of the "fraternal countries" for the giant Siberian development projects.

An economic affairs source in Budapest described this as an example of how his country had been badly hit: "We have manufacturing plant producing nothing but joint boxes for the Siberian natural gas pipeline. We supply Moscow on a rouble account and we have to refuse Arab orders that would earn us dollars, because factory capacities are fully used."

In order to protect its Western trade Budapest, at the last Comecon summit conference in Moscow, obstinately did everything possible against the Kremlin's efforts to give top importance to integration.

The bout ended with a complete victory for the Hungarians. They blocked the Russian's desire to increase Hungary's export volume to the Soviet Union from the present 47 per cent to 80 per cent, commenting that they would not be able to meet their obligations to their Western trading partners otherwise.

But the Hungarians did not get away scot free. They have to increase their export volume to the Soviet Union to 55 per cent.

Hungary's stubborn resistance at the Comecon Conference gave Russia's smaller partners a propaganda advantage which was made public in Czech newspapers.

After praising the Comecon resolutions, that involved economically fencing Moscow's satellites within the Soviet Union's sphere of influence, the comment then continued, "the Socialist countries champion mutually beneficial developments in fertile trading relations with all states, who are prepared for this."

This propaganda advantage, according to the Hungarians, is not worth the paper it is printed upon. Whoever goes too far in trading relations with the West is bound to come under fire from the Kremlin.

"That happened to us and it will happen to East Germany that, for the minimum of concessions governing travel between the two Germanies, has for the second time in a year been offered a billion deutschemarks in credit by the Federal Republic."

While Budapest and East Berlin have had to give each other mutual support in the newspaper war, Bucharest, surprisingly, has held off from the skirmishing.

Rumania's reward for this is an agreement with Moscow for increased natural gas supplies to cover the country's catastrophic energy shortage.

Hungary and East Germany, because of their extensive economic contracts with the West cannot expect such a reward from Moscow.

*Erich Grolig*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 August 1984)

# Why Jaruzelski has taken a hard line against Bonn

Nothing better shows the complete change in relations between West Germany and Poland that ther speech of General Jaruzelski on Poland's national day.

For Polish independence it was necessary to stop "greater German expansion" under the pretext of efforts for German reunification, so as to maintain peace in Europe.

The tone of these statements made to Bonn are reminiscent of the darkest period in the relations between the two countries after the war.

It seems that the mutual normalisation treaty and the policies pursued based on it during the 1970s had unfortunately only a *surface effect on the quality of West German-Polish relations.*

The rapid decline in relations between the two states can be placed firmly at Bonn's door. It has been guilty of either a bright optimism that resulted in a trivialisation, or an unwillingness to face up to the situation.

It is not valid to say that the renewed anti-German feeling in Warsaw is due to internal Polish factors. It may well be true that the Polish leadership is trying to toy with reviving the ghost of "Germnan revanchism and revisionism" so as to stir up the unhappy Polish people to patriotism to distract them from a disliked regime.

But the "German Question" played no role at all in the critical first year of martial law. The German Question only became an issue at the centre of media comment and foreign policy when there was a change of government in Bonn and when medium-range missiles were stationed on West German soil.

*Warsaw's anti-German campaign is* also aimed at endearing the Polish government to Moscow.

Poland was the forerunner in the current criticism of Bonn within the whole East Bloc. The connection between the stationing of the missiles and "revanchism and revisionism", first propounded by Warsaw, was not taken up by Moscow until some time after.

It is true to say that in the post-war period there has never been such an identity of interests between Moscow and Warsaw as there is at the present.

The new Bonn government has supplied the Warsaw regime with plenty of ammunition by referring once more to the Oder-Neisse Question and discovering the million-minority of Germans on that side of the frontier and the wish that the Poles should allow them rights as a minority.

This would not have become so dramatic, perhaps, were it not for the German-German flirtation.

For many Poles the understanding between the two Germanies has caused more than just "goose pimples". The Warsaw government is doing all it can to impede the understanding process between the two Germanies because Warsaw fears that it will be eventually to Poland's disadvantage.

Nothing will be changed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher when he visits Warsaw at the end of the year, the first Nato foreign minister to do so, and present constructive economic proposals to Warsaw.

The decline in West German-Polish relations is an unavoidable result of improved German-German relations.

National interests make it almost impossible to get out of this vicious circle.

*Harry Schleicher*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 August 1984)

# Belgrade goes into bat for the GDR

Yugoslavia has been taking a keen interest in the wrangle over Bonn and East Berlin including the East Bloc commentary.

Under a headline "Making their own way" the leading Yugoslav daily *Politika* commented that the Bonn visit of East Germany's Erich Honecker, scheduled for September, is the concave mirror through which the German Question could be observed, indicating how far the understanding between the two has got and how far this understanding is possible and desired.

Re-united or drawn closer to each other — forty years after the war the Germans are troubling the world again.

*Politika* added that not only was Pravda worried about West German revanchism. The Americans were as well.

*Politika* is traditionally anti-German. It comments that there are two currents for the relaxation of tensions, one between Washington and Moscow that ebbs and flows, and at the moment is in ebb, and a second, a smaller one that seeks for stability between the two in world affairs and quietly adjusts to its own needs."

It is surprising that East Berlin has opened its own door because the times are bad and we are not used to things like this from East Berlin.

Nevertheless such a relationship is not new, *Politika* said, and drew comparisons with 1980 when President Jimmy Carter wanted to impose a boycott, because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, while Helmut Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing endeavoured in Moscow to keep the channels open and the dialogue going despite considerable tension.

East Berlin, according to *Politika* represents the same thesis.

"The Croatian magazine *Start* said: "It is clear that since the end of July Pravda in Moscow has verbally attacked Bonn, in a way that has not been seen since the Cold War, and accused Bonn of trying to undermine East Germany's sovereignty and socialist system by political and economic contacts and that the target is Honecker."

The magazine regarded Budapest's discreet assistance of East Berlin as a new phenomenon in the relationship between the eastern European states that could coincide with Yugoslavia's own way towards Socialism and unlimited sovereignty.

Belgrade passionately opposes the so-called "Brezhnev Doctrine", that limits the sovereignty of the East Bloc states, and pursues an independent foreign policy as well as its own form of Socialism in the East Bloc camp.

The degree of independence of the individual East Bloc states is a yardstick by which to measure its own foreign policy.

*Start* magazine says that it made the same mistake as the Kremlinologists in the West in its assessment of Honecker, and to support this quotes from a toast made during the visit of Andreas Papendreou to East Berlin: "It would be a tragic mistake to solve the world's problems by military means, including the historical argument between Capitalism and Socialism. Such a way leads to the abyss," said Honecker.

East Berlin has taken all Moscow's attacks calmly and has not become involved in counter-polemics, according to *Start* because it holds West Germany responsible for "maintaining peace and the continuation of detente".

The *Start* commentator sees Moscow's attacks on Bonn and East Berlin as only confirmation that there are various currents of opinion in the Kremlin and in the other Warsaw Pact states.

"One thing is certain," said *Start* "the cooperation between the two Germanies does not conceal the danger of sudden reunification and therefore does not represent a move to destroy the blocs."

*Gustav Chalupa*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 15 August 1984)

■ FOREIGNERS IN GERMANY

# Time for the government to make up its mind and end the uncertainty

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The West German government should either say that the laws governing foreign residents are to be changed or that they are not going to be changed.

Foreigners in the country cannot be expected to put up with indecision any longer.

They do not know what status they and their families will have in one or two years.

Foreigners already have enough disadvantages in other fields. They should not become the plaything of party politics.

Many of the *Bundesländer* have begun an irresponsible competition with one another to see which is the most humane or which can reduce its share of foreigners in the population most effectively.

In this respect support is in order for pressure by the Interior Minister, Friedrich Zimmermann, on the government and the coalition parties that the coalition agreement drawn up in March 1983 be put into practice.

Really, it should be taken for granted that the minister responsible for this particular field takes the initiative and introduces a draft bill, especially since this was part of the coalition agreement framework.

Nonetheless, Zimmermann's announcement that he wishes to present a bill in autumn clearly bearing his "signature" does trigger rather an uneasy feeling.

In view of the discussion on foreigners and their legal status conducted up to now, it looks pretty sure that a shameful party-political dispute is about to break out.

All sides look like putting on a poor show, even the advocates of the most liberal of regulations, who often turn out to be mere Pharisees.

In the coalition there will again be a tug-of-war between the CSU and the FDP; the Opposition will totally deny the need to reduce the share of foreigners living in Germany, emphasising humanitarian aspects. They have their voters in mind here.

The alarming inability of all parties to discuss the issue of Aliens Law in the manner it deserves is not only reflected in the Chancellor's hesitation to implement the coalition agreement in one or the other direction.

It also becomes apparent in the attempts individual states to go their way in their legal rulings.

The letter sent recently to Chancellor Kohl by the Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg, Lothar Späth, calling for tougher controls in Aliens Law is a typical case in point.

In this context to mention the dictate of the Basic Law that the living conditions have to be the same in all Bundesländer would only bring a smile to his face.

Or does the dictate only apply for Germans and not for foreigners?

The positions taken by the various parties on this issue have already been staked out. There are no clear "correct" or "incorrect" lines of argument.

All the more the reason to discuss the matter in a responsible manner, particularly when it revolves around the age at which the children of "Gastarbeiter" are to be allowed to join their families.

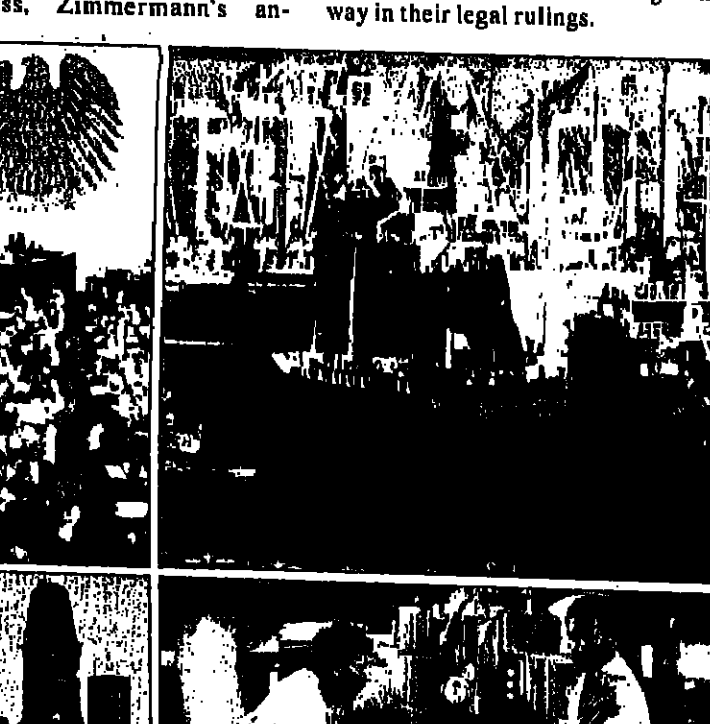
Interior Minister Zimmermann would like to see the maximum age reduced from 16 to six.

During the past parties have been unwilling to discuss the whole thing properly, rigidly sticking to their party lines.

One thing is certain: no foreign child is going to find it easy to integrate into German society if it arrives here at the age of ten or fifteen. Short-term economic gains may well be overshadowed by poorer job and general prospects.

On the other hand, there is an irrefutable right that parent and child be allowed to live together. This is particularly the case in a country in which marriage and the family are protected institutions.

When weighing up the issue political parties should be able to set certain priorities without being immediately condemned by their rivals. Usually the scales are tipped in favour of the parent-child relationship.



## Test for coalition

An informative discussion could be expected to provide a rundown of developments so far. Is the currently stagnating foreign population figure in Germany (4.4 million compared to 4.6 million a year ago) an acceptable level for the Federal Republic or must a drastic reduction be effected?

The whole discussion should not neglect the necessary efforts to integrate the foreigners who are already here.

Yet again the issue will be a test for the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition.

It will be almost impossible to avoid bickering within the coalition.

Success will only be possible if all sides show a willingness to compromise.

Chancellor Kohl has already indicated that he is more likely to support the FDP position than that of the CSU and some of his own party colleagues at Land level.

A trial of strength may turn into a test for the coalition.

*Heinz-Joachim Melder*
(Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger, 17 August 1984)



# Thousands take the cash and go home

About 300,000 foreigners in West Germany have accepted repatriation terms offered by the Bonn government to return to their home countries.

The offer includes a cash grant of DM10,500 plus DM1,500 for each child for certain categories of workers in addition to rebates on social security contributions.

Altogether, 16,833 foreign workers from non-EEC countries, including 14,459 Turks, applied for the cash grant. Of those, 2,500, or 15 per cent, were rejected.

Five thousand have taken advantage of the advance financing of 70 per cent of the amount by the Federal Labour Office.

The rest is payable when they have fulfilled certain conditions after returning home.

Foreign workers from non-EEC countries were entitled to the once-only payment if they lost their jobs due to plant closure or bankruptcy between October 30, 1983, and June 30, 1984, or were on short-time work during a certain period.

Far more were affected by rebates of social security contributions: 140,000. Of those, 120,000 were Turks.

Secretary of State Wolfgang Vogt of the Labour Ministry, arrived at the total of 300,000 by including families.

Despite this success the Federal government sees no reason to take the initiative to extend the law, said Vogt.

As he explained, the government had stated right from the start that its intention was to put an end to the wait-and-see attitude which existed on the repatriation debate when the Schmidt government was in power.

In future, the government will be placing less emphasis on financial incentives to promote repatriation and more on measures to enable an occupational reintegration of foreign workers when they return home.

Here, advisory measures are just as important as upgrading and initial financial assistance.

Greater advantage is to be taken of the existing reintegration agreement with the Turkish government to help individual repatriates to secure a means of livelihood back home.

It is planned to draw up a similar agreement with the Yugoslavian government.

The integration of those foreign workers and their families who have lived here for many years is of primary importance.

The government will also be focusing on the occupational and social integration of foreign youth in Germany. 40 per cent have no German school-leaving certificate and two-thirds do not receive vocational training or any form of further education.

DM 90m are earmarked in the Interior Ministry's 1984 budget for integration aid, five-and-a-half times the amount planned for 1973.

87 % of the two million foreign workers either require no work permit or have a special work permit.

Vogt advocated a greater standardisation of administrative procedure as regards laws on the right of residence.

He strongly criticised the recent decision by the Hesse state government to allow 16 and 17 year-old foreigners to join their families.

(Handelsblatt, 2 August 1984)



DEMOGRAPHY

# Population explosion: it may already be too late to act

DIE ZEIT

In the good old days, when science was taught in a more illustrative way, many demographers began their lectures with the example of the waterlily.

The waterlily, namely, a beautiful and harmless-looking flower, proliferates at such a pace that the whole surface of a pond, for example, is covered within a very short period. Countermeasures are usually too late and disaster is imminent.

The world with its almost 4.8 billion inhabitants is also rapidly approaching the day on which it may be too late to take any effective measures to check the population upsurge.

The world Population Conference which began August 6 in Mexico City set out to find solutions to one of mankind's most pressing problems. However, the only thing all the delegations from the 156 countries attending the conference could agree upon was that immediate measures are required to stem the tide of the world's rising population.

This, at least, was more than could be achieved ten years ago at the 1974 Conference held in Bucharest. While the world's industrialised North insisted that population growth in the South be checked as soon as possible, a radical majority condemned this as a move to keep the South weak and the North strong, reinforcing the existing economic imbalance between the two.

Although the majority of developing countries did not support this view, they believed - or at least claimed - that rapid economic growth would help provide for the growing population.

A "plan of action" was drawn up, which it is claimed has reduced the overall annual growth rate from 2.0 per cent to a current level of 1.7 per cent. However, "population" became a problem of secondary or even tertiary importance.

Since the Bucharest conference the world's population has increased by 770 million, and one of the hopes expressed ten years ago has proved to be an illusion: there is no New International Economic Order nor a North-South dialogue.

The transfer of technology and of capital is still inadequate. Neither the non-aligned states, the "Group of 77", nor the OPEC have been able to improve the economic lot of Third World countries.

In fact, quite the reverse is true; the Third World has been hardest hit by the world economic recession, which began in 1980. The debt crisis is the most visible expression of the failure of development models.

The harshness of reality has forced several countries to abandon their dreams of global solutions and face up to the fact that in future their population growth rates will outpace the growth of their economies and/or of their agricultural output.

Global figures describing the extent of the problem only confuse the issue. Whether the world population amounts to well over 6 billion by the year 2000, or eight million (United Nations figure), or, as the World Bank expects, ten billion by the year 2050 of countermeasures are effective, otherwise 12 billion, is comparatively irrelevant.

We just don't know how many people there will be, or how many people could be fed if all the world's available food resources were to be optimally distributed.

A population density of 248 inhabitants per sqare kilometre as in the Federal Republic of Germany would be disastrous for a country in the Sahel region.

No-one can say exactly whether Brazil, for example, has a population of 113 million, or only 106 million, or 120 million.

The dimension of global figures may well arouse political interest, but there are no global solutions so existing problems. Countermeasures must be developed in line with the specific features of any one particular region, its cultural background, religion, level of development and economic potential.

The population explosion, which began after the Second World War and reached its peak in the mid-sixties, is a problem facing the world's southern hemisphere.

The basic rule of thumb is: the poorer the country, the more pronounced the growth of its population. This is partly due to the large number of children, partly to the successes in medical care, which have enabled people to live longer and reduced infant mortality.

The first drastic warnings were issued by the demographers during the early seventies. Even rapidly expanding economies in Third World countries, they claimed, would not be able to cope with the vast increase in persons reaching a working age.

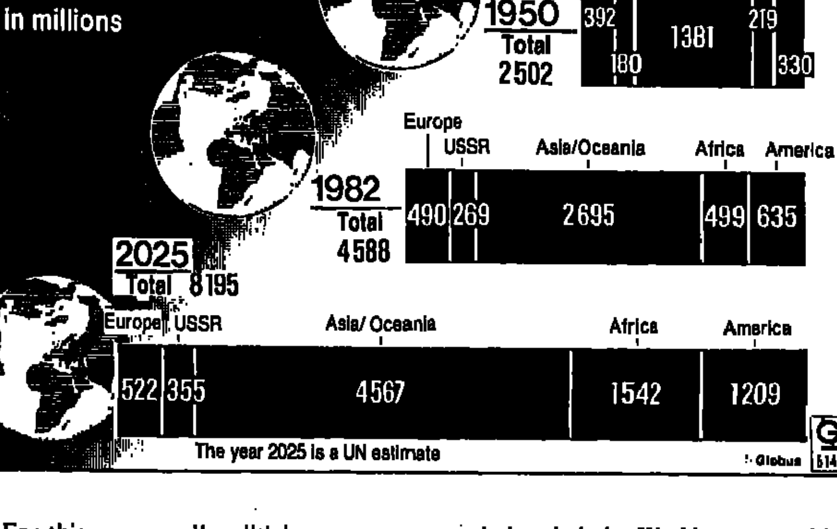
**❛Harshness of reality has forced most nations to abandon their dreams❜**

There would not be enough agriculturally exploitable land and the harvest yields would not match expectations due to the poor quality of soil or the lack of essential fertiliser and chemicals. Mass rural exodus would lead to the collapse of traditional supply structures.

Today, there are two primary demographic problems facing the Third World:

- 40 per cent of the population of the Third World are 15 years of age or younger and will soon reach an age in which they will undoubtedly have children of their own,
- the population has increased too rapidly to enable any significant improvement in the standard of living. An increased standard of living, however, (providing support in old age) has always shown itself to be the best form of birth control.

A vicious circle emerges: because the population increases too fast, the standard of living remains low, and because the standard of living remains low, the population goes on increasing.




For this reason, all politicians try to emphasise the few exceptions to this depressing rule, which do indeed exist:

- the higher the level of education - or in the Third World: the adult literacy rate, the greater the success recorded by birth control programmes,
- the greater the degree of female emancipation (away from the model of a mother of many children), the lower the average number of children,
- the more long-term and continuous the efforts to effect birth control, the greater the success, which only becomes apparent over a longer period of time,
- the better the medical caré of newborn children, the more pronounced the decrease in births,
- the more even the spread of even the smallest of economic improvements, the more pronounced the reaction of falling birth figures.

Above all, family planning measures can only then be successful of as many birth control methods as possible are provided cheaply and their application explained properly.

With this end in mind, just under 90 developing countries together accounting for 95 per cent of the Third World population have publicly subsidised programmes. However, many experts feel that such action may have come too late.

For one thing cannot be denied: birth control takes time, as it must fight against ignorance and established traditions. The Chinese farmer thinks of his son, who will continue the long line of his own forefathers; the Mexican *campesino* is told by the Catholic priest that the Pope bans both contraception and abortion; and Malthus still haunts the minds of many politicians: if a country cannot feed its hungry, the "people with no room to live" have a right to stake territorial claims elsewhere.

Because the fight against the vast increase in the world's population is also a true, in fact the greatest, revolution, namely the overcoming of traditional habits, compulsory measures do more harm than good.

It seems strange that one of man's most pressing problems needs so much time to convince the countries affected - and in many coountries time is running out fast.

It was the United States which destroyed the consensus in Mexico City, reached after painstaking efforts. The head of the American delegation, Buckley, proclaimed the Reagan creed that a growing population need be no disadvantage (a statement with which all demographers would agree). However, he failed to add that the increased population must be economically and socially integrated.

The crisis is not caused by the population increase itself, but by the speed at which it is taking place.

This half-truth was then followed by a moral thunderbolt: Washington - which finances 40 per cent of international birth control programmes - wants to block the granting of all funds to organisations which tolerate abortion. Life is sacred, even if tens of millions starve.

These words have caused considerable ill-feeling in the Third World. The farewell to developmental dreams was difficult enough; now, the other, more difficult, path of overcoming internal problems is be placed under the moral auspices of a country which the majority of developing countries blame for the failure of global dialogue as well as for the debt crisis.

For how else can this warning be understood? No international organisation preaches abortions as part of its programme; the United Nations don't even support (voluntary) sterilisation.

A bow to the "moral majority" which Reagan hopes will return him to presidential office on November 6, has yet again aroused the suspicion of the Third World that the leading power in the North is not interested in genuine help.

Yet this help is urgently needed; regional catastrophes are already inevitable today.

The World Bank has issued calculations for a number of countries: according to the standard forecast, which includes the levelling-off of the growth rates already recorded, and according to an optimistic version, which is based on the success of family planning programmes.

India is one example: its current population is 717 million, and by the year 2050 this figure will have reached either 1,513 million (standard forecast) or 1,406 million (2nd version".

Or Nigeria: at present, a population figure of 91 million, in twenty years 471 million (standard) or 265 million.

Or the conference's host country, Mexico: today a figure of 73 million, its population will rise to 182 (standard) or 160 million by the middle of the next century.

Even if all the figures forecast were only half of what they are: these countries will not be able to cope with their problems by their own efforts.

A time bomb is ticking, not only for neighbouring countries but for the region and indeed the continent as a whole.

The conference in Mexico has been unable to provide instant recipes for solving the problem, at most dogged calculated optimism and the lean consolation that a problem has been recognised and accepted.

Asked whether it's such a bad thing if the pond is completely covered by waterlilies, our hypothetical lecturer answered: no, but what about the lilies which come after the pond is covered? - and what about those that are already there?

*Horst Bieber*
(Die Zeit, 10 August 1984)

■ FINANCE

# Reasons why the dollar remains the currency to go for

DIE ZEIT

It's easy to explain the strength of the American dollar: "Where else would you put your money?" ask American financiers.

What about in marks? The West German government has indeed brought considerable order into public financing and the Bundesbank, the central bank of issue, continues to apply its stability policies.

But hardly before the economy began to show signs of recovery there are indications of a slacking off. Developments on the labour market do not look very hopeful.

Or what about in yen? The Japanese currency is not yet international enough. Tokyo is not yet fully linked up with international money markets.

In sterling? Ten years ago an expert would have only smiled, but in the meantime, thanks to North Sea oil, the British currency is out of the cycle in which a weakness in one currency had its repercussions in sterling. Nevertheless holders of sterling cannot sleep untroubled.

The Swiss franc? This is, of course, a hard currency, but its market volume is limited.

When it is a question of investing sums in billions there is only the dollar. The interest rates are good and the exchange rate continuously rises. There will be no drop in the exchange rate, even in the months leading up to the presidential election in November. An exchange rate increase is more likely.

The dollar has increased 67 per cent in value since its low point in 1980 to 1 August this year.

Why? Because opinions on the Reagan government, as they affect the exchange markets, are positive.

The government is regarded as being strong, giving leadership, and economic policies are supported by Paul Volcker, chairman of the American Federal Reserve, who, by controlling the money supply, holds to a stable course.

Ronald Reagan and Volcker are symbolic figures, trusted throughout the world. They will give the American economy the locomotive power to drag the world economy out of recession, it is believed.

These two have been able to give rapid growth to the American economy while maintaining a low inflation rate and creating new jobs.

Then come the critics, mainly from abroad, a reproach the Americcan President for the exceptionally large budget deficit (in the current year it will be $175 billion alone) that creates high interest rates not only in America but all over the world, impeding economic recovery and overburdening the heavily indebted developing countries.

The Reagan government's hopes that the promised decrease in taxes would be self-financing because the recovered economy would be the lively spring from which additional tax revenues would bubble, has not come about.

Enormous defence spending pushes the deficit to record levels. But in terms of a percentage of the gross national product the American budget deficit is smaller than in most countries in Europe.

It is no longer possible to finance the budget deficit with citizens' savings. Foreign money has jumped into the breach and helps fill the gap. High interest rates beckon.

Reagan, an advocate of supply-oriented policies, who would not regulate the economy by public demand à la Keynes, has involuntarily become a super-Keynesian.

The Americans are flexible and mobile. They will come to terms with the far-reaching changes in the economy, structural changes, quicker than other nations.

The economy is growing at an astonishing rate.

Imports have shot sky high, exports have dropped back — partly due to the limited ability to buy by the heavily indebted Latin American countries.

To the budget deficit can now be added a deficit on current account. But, despite textbook wisdom, the dollar is not weak.

Smaller deficits on current account after the Vietnam War badly hit the dollar. Then a weak administration stood behind the dollar. Today the much greater deficit on current account is financed without any trouble by a reserve currency.

For investors the United States is a certain stronghold in an uncertain world. And for the past few days the US has become a kind of tax haven. President Reagan made a tax proposal that should over the next three years bring in something like fifty billion dollars. He has also hade changes to the tax obligations of foreign investors.

Until now foreigners holding American bonds had to pay a thirty-per-cent withholding tax on interest earnings. In future these earnings will be tax free.

Last year 86 billion dollars from abroad were invested in America. With the abolition of the withholding tax this will probably be much more.

This cash inflow will be from people who are unhappy with their own government who fear the taxman generally.

The American government expects there to be a pressure on interest rates because of this inflow of capital.

Without capital from abroad, the government maintains, prime rate would be from one to two per cent higher. At the present 13 per cent it is probably already too high.

The American currency is for many incomprehensible because of these basics, and the expectations that things will stay as they are for the next few months until after the presidential election.

American bankers believe that the upper limit is DM2.92 which will be attacked a few times by the American dollar until the financial world is convinced that this limit cannot be pierced.

According to the *Wall Street Journal* the bets are 20 to 80 that the rate will go higher, eighty for the reverse move.

Does anyone expect an exchange rate drop? The Federal Bank does hold the view that it is possible that the rate could move downwards. The figure of DM2.90 is too high, it has been suggested. The dollar would still be strong at DM2.60 or DM2.50.

Experts do not rule out the possibilities of movements between these figures, caused by changes in the rate of American economic growth.

There is only one development that could result in panic selling of dollars, according to the Federal Bank: if Walter F. Mondale made it into the White House against all predictions.

We in West Germany do not have any reasons to complain about the strong

The powerful dollar

Drop in value of European currencies against the dollar between Jan 1983and July 1984 in%

-17 Austria; 18 Germany; 20 Switz.; 21 Den.; 24 France; 23 Italy; 20 Belg; 20 Holl.

dollar. West German industry is selli[ng] its wares well in America with a pri[ce] advantage. It is, of course, true, th[at] imports that have to be paid in dolla[rs] — oil — are dearer, but this will [be] temporarily adjusted for the econom[y] as a whole by a drop in raw materi[al] prices.

It would be inappropriate to com[-]plain about the strong American dolla[r] because of the West Germany econo[-]my. We can thank the strong Americ[an] dollar for what is happening in th[e] world econome and currency syste[m]. People forget all too easily that it w[as] the weak American dollar, weigh[ed] down by inflation, that brought abo[ut] severe crises in the world economy a[nd] the international currency system.

In the 1970s people wondered h[ow] the currency system could be ma[de] functional, although the dollar w[as] sick.

Do we remember such aid devices [as] the "subsidy account" that would s[oak] up dollar surpluses?

The international currency system [is] as healthy as its leading currency. Th[e] dollar is still the currency for trade, in[-]vestment and reserves. So long as th[e] dollar is healthy the world econom[y] will function well. We ought to mak[e] our peace with the strong America[n] dollar.

*Rudolf Herlt*

(Die Zeit, 10 August 198[4])

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## Exchange rate pleases the exporters

The dollar's climb to almost three deutsch marks has made headlines way beyond the economic pages of a newspaper.

As in the 1970s, when the dollar was at its lowest point, people from all walks of life are watching the daily exchange movements and wondering what effect the moves will have on the West German economy.

The dollar at DM2.90 is at its highest point for ten years. Then, as a consequence of the Vietnam War, inflation and a lack of confidence the dollare dropped to DM1.7062.

As in the "good old days" many Americans can now afford to travel abroad at relatively little cost, while West Germans with a stagnating income can only dream about the expensive "Wild West".

The effect on West Germany's industry will be more lasting than the effects on America's relatively modest tourism. In the main the low value of the mark is welcomed by exporters.

Although only a small proportion of exports are handled on a dollar basis the currency depreciation in exports is obvious. The increase in demand is based on the favourable American economy.

While total West German exports only increased five per cent in the first five months of this year, exports to non-European countries rose 51 per cent. Increases of 57 and 62 per cent were registered for the US and Canada.

The motor industry, the largest export industry, reported an increase of deliveries to North America of 54 per cent betwen January and May this year. This gave an export share of 16 per cent.

Engineering, after cars the most important export industry, was pleased in the main with the high dollar exchange rate. America, after France, is the largest customer for West German engineering with a value of DM63 billion last year.

"Our position has considerably improved," said Alexander Batschari, spokesman for the West German engineering and plant construction association.

But the weak mark has also had a positive effect in the Third World and Latin America where West German industry competes keenly with the Japa[-]nese and Americans.

The same is true for the chemicals in[-]dustry. An industry association spokes[-]man said that the competitive position ha[d] been improved not only in North Americ[a] but also in the Middle and Far East.

Between May and June there was a[n] increase of deliveries to the USA an[d] Japan of 50 and 40 per cent, with a[n] overall export increase of 24 per cen[t]. This trend had been maintained in Jun[e] according to th industry spokesma[n]. Exports to the US were now 6 per cen[t] of total exports as opposed 44.9 pe[r] cent a year ago.

But the exchange rate that favours e[x]ports makes managers tremble. Man[y] ask if the high US dollar and the im[-]proved US economic position is long lasting or not. Good foreign marke[ts] can suddenly fall apart with an over[-]night drop in the dollar.

The engineering and plant constru[c]tion association has other fears apa[rt] from advantages brought about by th[e] exchange rate.

West German industry has achieved [a] certain position in the American mar[-]ket, but there is considerable agitation within the American industry to influ[-]ence Washington to curtail trade. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 August 1984)



■ DATA

# Bid to control motor vehicle records

[T]he Federal Ministry of Transport is to present special data protection [re]gulations for the central vehicle regis[ter] at the Federal Office for Motor Traf[f]ic in Flensburg in September.

This is the first time a Federal author[it]y has complied with the call by the [Fe]deral Constitutional Court issued in [its] court decision on the permissibility [of] the census.

As a Ministry spokesman said, the [Ro]ad Traffic Act would have to be al[ter]ed accordingly.

The draft bill attempts to regulate the [us]e of the Flensburg vehicle register, [wh]ich has been extended to form an [ele]ctronically gathered Central Traffic [In]formation System (ZEVIS).

This computer contains information [o]n the more than 30 million cars regis[ter]ed in the Federal Republic, including [lic]ense-plate numbers, chassis numbers [an]d addresses and dates of birth of vehi[cle] owners.

In addition, the Flenburg computer has stored the car insurance numbers of [ab]out two million mopeds as well as de[ta]ils of 500,000 withdrawn driving li[c]ences.

According to statements by the Min[is]try, 90,000 inquiries are made each [da]y in both written form and by tele[pho]ne, mainly by the police, the courts [an]d administrative departments dealing [wit]h traffic offences.

The Transport Ministry plans to [gr]ant a number of departments direct [ac]cess via ZEVIS to the central index of [roa]d traffic offences with its 3.5 million [en]tries.

The police, the Federal Border [Gu]ard, tax fine departments and regis[tr]ation offices are also to be linked up to [th]e computer and will be able to re[tr]ieve the information they seek on a [vi]deo terminal.

This method has already been tested [b]y about 100 police departments in [Ba]den-Württemberg and by the Federal Criminal Police Office.

Other persons wishing to obtain in[for]mation will still have to ask in Flens[bu]rg first; for example, car insurance [com]panies, tax offices, scientists, road [acc]ident casualties or their relatives, [an]d environmental protection organis[at]ions.

News and information services will also be allowed to ask for information in Flensburg, but will not be granted direct access to the computer, the Transport Ministry assured.

Data protection experts have expressed their reservations about the direct access of certain authorities.

There should be clear guidelines to decide who can get what kind of information from the computer.

Another disputed aspect is the so-called P-inquiry, for which the authority or department seeking the information feeds in the person's name and the computer spits out details of all the vehicles registered for that particular person or company.

Transport Minister Werner Dollinger gave the assurance that this P-inquiry, which met with a particularly critical response by the Data Protection Commissioner, would only be approved if the Ministry of the Interior regards it to be essential.

The data-protection commissioner from Hesse, Spiros Simitis, criticised the P-inquiry as, together with the direct access granted, this would allow an uncontrolled access to basic data on more than half of Germany's adult population.

A central national register would thus be set up through the backdoor.

*dpa*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 August 1984)

# Number of information banks doubles within a year

The number of data banks worldwide has doubled within a year to just under 2,000.

According to a statement by the Frankfurt-based Schimmelpfeng information service bureau, new companies in this field are springing up like mushrooms every day.

They are all specialised in evaluating publications and providing information for their specialist clientele.

Up to 14,000 new specialist publications swamp the information market every day, a quantity which no single "data banker" can survey without some kind of technical aids.

The creation and expansion of data banks, therefore, is closely interlinked with developments in the field of microelectronics.

The increasingly efficient data-storage systems are rapidly edging paper out of archives and libraries as an information carrier, new systems saving material and space.

Alongside the vast information storage capacities, the decisive advantage of a data bank is the speed with which stored information can be retrieved.

The system is based on special computer programmes. If a data bank user desires information on a certain topic, he feeds in certain key words and the computer combs its way through the stored information.

The range of information covered by data banks has become so immense that a number of information brokers, as some brokers of the "raw material information" call themselves, have established themselves on the market to mediate between clients and data banks.

Most of the clients are medium-sized companies, which have neither the specialist knowhow, nor the necessary technical equipment to use the data banks directly.

One of the most well-known German data banks, the Legal Information System (JURIS), has been made accessible to general public.

*dpa*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 August 1984)

# Push-button instant law for lawyers and the public

A legal data-bank system has been developed with the aim of simplifying the law for both lawyers and the public.

Anyone will be able to pay to get up-to-date information about laws and regulations at the push of a button.

So far, 450,000 items have been entered including laws, administrative regulations and court decisions.

More entries are planned and a more extensive system of cross-referencing is intended to make the system more sophisticated.

The bank has been developed after ten years of research and development work by the Federal Ministry of Justice in Bonn.

The ultimate aim is to make the legal system simpler, more transparent and more reliable.

However, as Federal Minister of Justice, Hans Engelhard (FDP) points out; "man is not to be replaced by the machine". Decisions made in future will still be made by human beings.

"There will be no court judgements passed by a computer", he stressed.

Data retrieval begins typing in a number of key words. JURIS, as the system has been named, then finds the relevant court material, court decisions and legal literature in the twinkling of an eye.

For example, if someone made an inquiry as to whether the purchase of a toupée is tax deductible as extraordinary expenses, JURIS would inform the person inquiring of the decision by the eleventh senate to the Düsseldorf Tax Court that it is in case of "circular loss of hair".

The key words needed in this particular case were "toupée", "costs" and "extraordinary expenses". At the same time, the information on the court decision was accompanied by a statement that 21 "toupée" cases, 30,000 "costs" cases and 675 "extraordinary expenses" cases are stored.

The development of JURIS since 1973, which apart from the Ministry of Justice was also backed by the Ministries of Finance and Labour and Social Affairs as well as the Federal Supreme Courts, has cost roughly DM90m.

Over 60 parliaments, courts, ministries, universities, professional associations and lawyers were linked up to the system during the test phase.

In line with a Federal government decision, the system will now be organisationally seperated from the Ministry of Justice and turned into a GmbH (limited liability company) with Federal participation next year.

Minister Engelhard feels that the production and distribution of specialist information should be handed over to the private sector. After its initial support in helping to get the project underway, the federal government will now restrict its involvement to protecting public interests.

To begin with, JURIS will be located in Bonn. The decision on its final location will be taken in autumn. Berlin, Kassel, Trier and Saarbrücken have already filed their applications.

Preliminary calculations estimate that a 15-minute inquiry, in which a "host of information can be gathered", will cost between DM20 and DM30.

*Stefan Heydeck*

(Die Welt, 20 August 1984)

■ RESOURCES

# Race begins to exploit the Antarctic, but how will the Antarctic react?

**Frankfurter Rundschau**

**Political and economic interest in the Antarctic has increased in the search for sources of albumin, mineral raw materials and energy.**

**There is also an increased interest in the global relationship between the geology and climate of the region. This has prompted scientists to get more involved with Antarctic research.**

**These points were made by Gotthilf Hempel, director of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar Research, Bremerhaven and coordinator of the international biological Antarctic programme BIOMASS, the starting point for the opening up of the treeless ice-waste and the background for the increase in West German research activities in the region.**

It is not clear what resources lie under the Antarctic ice wastes, what can be expected of human interference with the region's sensitive ecology, and what effect climatic changes in the ice wastes in Antarctic would have on the levels of the world's seas.

Antarctica is one and a half times the size of Europe, and the race for its natural resources has already started.

West Germany is officially in this race since signing the Antarctic Treaty in 1979, which has now been signed by 27 nations.

After holding off for years the Scientific Research Ministry has invested DM300 million for the establishment of the two Antarctic stations, Georg von Neumayer and Filchner, for the construction of the research and supply vessel "Polarstern" that was put into service 19 months ago, for two survey and transport aircraft and setting up the Alfred Wegener Institute as a research and coordination centre.

As Hempel said it is about "the investigation of the world's last extensive, undeveloped Continent and Ocean that make up a tenth of the earth's surface."

West German Antarctic research is concerned with the geology of the ice wastes and the Continent's emergence from the continent Gondwana that includes also South America, South Africa, India and Australia.

Scientists are hoping that under the 3.5 kilometre thick layer of ice they will find a wealth of raw materials.

It has been established, according to the scientists, that there are abundant deposits of iron ore in the east Antarctic and small resources of copper on the Antarctic peninsula.

It is believed that under a thin layer of ice major deposits of nickel, chromium, vanadium and platinum will be found. The scientists also hope that in the seas off the continental shelf and in the western Antarctic oil and natural gas will be discovered. It has been established that there is coal in the inaccessible mountainous terrain.

An international convention is currently being drawn up to regulate the exploitation of the region's resources, although, as Gotthilf Hempel admitted, the time was a long way off when the raw materials in the Antarctic could be used.

There are already difficulties with seven signatory nations, including Britain whose claims in the region have been put on ice. London claims a priviliged position.

West German scientists hope to come to some conclusions on the effect worldwide of the dynamics of sea ice from a study of the inter-change of influences between the atmosphere, sea ice and water.

Gotthilf Hempel explained that in the seas of the South Pole there was a great build-up of ice in autumn and winter extending over 20 million square kilometres, which was reduced to three or four million square kilometres in summer.

But over long periods the area of pack-ice has declined affecting the exchange of heat between the ocean and atmosphere.

Regular measurements have established that the crust of the Filchner shelf ice has been reduced by a kilometre a year over the past twenty years. It is not clear yet if there has been a slight increase in air temperature with a rise in sea level that lets shelf ice flow more swiftly, or if there has been an increase in the mass as a whole (more precipitation than loss of ice).

Calculations have indicated, Hempel says, that over a period of 200 years the shelf ice in the west Antarctic will disappear. The resultant rise water level would be enough to flood Holland and part of north Germany.

Until now it was difficult to make predictions because of the complicated condenser reaction system that exists between air, sea and ice. Scientists hope to learn more using satellite technology that can produce pictures of ice caps, clouds and the ground temperature, and provide important data on the exchange process.

According to Gotthilf Hempel the research vessel, Polarstern, "the best there is available at the moment" will considerably extend research possibilities on sea ice.

The 45-metre high mast at the Georg von Neumeyer station eases the regular collection of data throughout the year. The results are fed into an international network for medium-term weather predictions.

The third and most fascinating question is how sensitive are the Polar regions to environmental pollution, a centre point in the research, and to what degree human interference in the complicated ecology of the Antarctic causes harm.

A dominating factor is the breeding grounds of krill (phosphorescent shrimps) in the Antarctic, whose estimated total weight indicates that they are the most prolific creatures in the world.

In 1981 the West German research vessel Walther Herwig discovered a concentration of krill of many millions of tons. As a basic food krill is the warm-blooded creature of the region. One-hundred ton whales, in particular, feed off the vast masses of krill, because they have to take in their food requirements for a year in 120 summer days.

Rolar researchers are calling for international regulations governing the farming of krill, the albumin reserve of the world's oceans.

It is of considerable importance that it should be spelled out clearly how human beings can go as krill consumers in competition with others who live on the species.

The international BIOMASS programme should provide more research information on the food chain that extends from plankton to krill to mammals. Only then will it be possible to estimate the consequences of fishing in Antarctic waters.

The Antarctic Treaty of 1961 governs the race for the natural resources of the South Pole region, the search for metals, energy and additional basic foods.

The Treaty is designed to govern research into the ice wastes for peaceful purposes. Military activities, nuclear tests and storing nuclear waste are forbidden as is the exploitation of the seabed.

The signatory states are obliged to abide by the Treaty until the beginning of the 1990s, but there is already considerable international discussion on rights and responsibilities.

The research institute in Bremerhaven will use the intervening time for intensive research in the South Pole. The future of the Antarctic is as uncertain as ever.

*Manfred Husemann*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 July 1984)

# German opinion divided on Law of Sea Convention

**Frankfurter Allgemeine**

There is considerable difference of opinion over whether West Germany should sign the Law of the Sea Convention.

So far 132 states have signed the agreement, which was finalised at the end of 1982.

The Bonn Opposition wants West Germany to sign. Diplomatic circles say the Foreign Office is in favour, too. But the Economic Affairs Ministry has doubts.

The government, which is to announce its decision soon, is plagued by doubts about the deep-sea mining provisions.

According to Economic Affairs Ministry authorities, economic mining will not be possible under the proposals and it will not be possible to regulate the mining that does take place.

They say that private sector's ability to take part will be so severely limited that it will have little interest in investing money.

But the government could also not go along with establishing an international body to handle deep-sea mining, to supervise production limitations or the responsibilities of the industrialised countries to transfer deep-sea mining technology to developing countries.

Acceptance of the deep-sea mining concept would create a precedent for the Third World's demand for a new, dirigistic world economic order.

The Foreign Office sees a pragmatic solution in the signing of the final draft. Signing would not mean agreeing to the regulations concerning deep-sea mining. It could be signed with the clear reservation that the deep-sea mining section needed correction.

The West German government can exercise considerable influence when, by signing, Bonn has a place in the preparatory commission in the Law of the Sea Conference.

The decision about signing the ratification could then be left open.

A Foreign Office statement says that by signing "we would have a foot in the door without having passed through."

In Bonn the view is that there is still plenty of time to change the regulations concerning deep-sea mining. It is estimated that the seabed cannot be exploited for minerals until at least the 1990s or even the turn of the century.

In the debates on the new law of the sea it was assumed that deep-sea mining would begin in the 1980s.

The West German government has cautiously reached an agreement with seven other countries that have deep-sea mining interests, amplifying the Law of the Sea Convention.

These countries have held themselves mutually duty bound not to interrupt the opening up of working fields.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 August 1984)



■ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# Ariane launch puts Europe right into the satellite business

**Two European communications satellites have been put into orbit by Ariane the European space rocket. Another orders for satellites to be put into orbit were dependent on the success of this launch. The satellites, France's Telecom 1 and Europe's ESC 1, were put into orbit from Kourou, in French Guiana.**

The United States is beginning to sit up and take notice of the European space rocket, Ariane, following a long series of successful launchings.

Whereas the space shuttle has been plagued by several major hitches over the past few months in its efforts to transport satellites into the geo-stationary orbit 36,000 km above the earth, Ariane has been flying from one success to the next.

This is a particular slap in the face for the Americans, since they are currently trying to get the biggest slice of the rapidly developing market for the launching of telecommunications satellites.

American claims that the reusable space transporter would turn out to be the cheapest launcher system, unrivalled anywhere in the world, are no longer to be heard.

European successes are mainly due to the persistent efforts by the French, who insisted on the construction of a European launching system despite the repeated setbacks in attempt to launch Euro-rockets in Woomera (Australia) and Kourou (French Guiana) during the earlier seventies.

At the time, the Federal Republic of Germany favoured efforts to catch up with the Americans in the field of space research and supported the development of the space laboratory, Spacelab, a project in which Europe invested a great deal but benefitted little.

Spacelab, however, was unable to prevent the construction of the Ariane, since France agreed to pay sixty per cent of the costs for the rocket. The Federal Republic accepted a twenty per cent share.

The future of the European launching system is now guaranteed, mainly because France unwaveringly insisted on developing more efficient versions of the Ariane.

The final decision to build Ariane 2 and Ariane 3 was taken in 1980, and Ariane 4 in 1982.

Ariane 3, with a payload capacity of over 2,500 kilograms for a transfer orbit to the geo-stationary orbit compared with just under 2,000 kilograms in the case of Ariane 1, was successfully launched at the beginning of August.

The variety of launchers is based on the idea that each weight category of satellites must have a corresponding launcher able to bear such load. Within these categories the satellites are then allocated to the launcher rockets used.

For example, it would be a waste to launch a satellite into space weighing 1,500 kilograms using a launcher rocket which can take a playload of 1,500 kilograms.

It is this clever commercial strategy which has got the Americans worried.

Ariane 2 is a slightly modified version of Ariane 1, with an increased thrust and enlarged fuel capacity, adding two-and-a-half metres to the rocket's length.

The only difference between Ariane 2 and Ariane 3 is that the latter has two additional solid-propellant rockets. Ariane 4, with only slight alterations to its predecessor Ariane 3, is expected to be launched in summer 1986.

Apart from the desire to develop launcher systems to cater for varying capacity categories there was a second important reason for increasing *Araine's* size: the telecommunications satellites are becoming larger and larger, necessitating more powerful rockets.

Ariane 1, for example, was only just able to bear the weight of the international communications satellite Intelsat V. However, the load capacity was no longer sufficient for Intelsat VA, which was 2,000 kilograms heavier.

Arianespace, the rocket's marketing company, has therefore had to miss out on flights. Whereas Ariane 1 was used for the launching of two Intelsat V satellites in October and March, American satellites are being used for the next Intelsat VA satellite flights.

However, Intelsat has already decided to come back to Ariane as soon as Ariane 3, which has only been flown once, has been adequately tested and proves its reliability.

This "loyalty" on the part of the international company Intelsat can be regarded as one of the Europeans' greatest successes.

An American company has already applied to Arianespace for a launching; Arab, a Canadian and an Italian telecommunications satellite are also on Ariane's list.

Up until 1987, 28 flights have been booked with a total order value of about 6.5 billion French francs, 60 per cent by Europeans.

The orders already booked can only be handled if the space station at Kourou is extended. At the moment, there is only one launching pad there, which means that a second rocket cannot be made ready for flight before the first one has taken off. This means that at most six rockets can be handled each year. A second pad will be operational next year, thus increasing the number of annual take-offs most of which launch a load of two lighter or medium-weight satellites, to twelve a year. Ariane 5 is already planned for the 1990s and will make the Europeans completely independent of the Americans in space. According to plans, this rocket will be able to bring a payload of 8,000 kilograms into a transfer orbit, 4,500 into a geo-stationary orbit or roughly 15,000 kilograms into a perigean orbit (close to the earth), the preferred orbital course for manned flights.

Europeans have also been considering such manned flights for some time now. Participation in the American space station project, therefore, where valuable experience can be gathered, is not completely out of the question.

However, the question is how much the Europeans should invest in such joint ventures, for what they invest there is no longer available for European space programmes.

What is more, past experience has shown that the Americans often resort to laws and contractual commitments to prevent potential rivals from becoming too powerful.

It would therefore be more preferable for Europeans to foster cooperation between themselves.

*Günter Paul*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 August 1984)



**One of the two satellites launched by Ariane 3, the European ECS 2, during a ground test. It will be used to beam radio and TV signals.** (Photo: ESA)

# Double payload a big moment, but it's only a beginning

**Süddeutsche Zeitung**

The launching of Ariane 3 with the two European telecommunications satellites ECS 2 and Telecom 1, means that 19 satellites controlled by the European Space Operations Centre (ESCO) in Darmstadt are in orbit.

The jubilation of the European Space Agency (ESA) technicians at the Kourou space station (French Guiana) following the successful take-off of the latest Ariane project soon gave way to the sober realisation that the real work has only just begun.

During the coming weeks ESOC experts from 13 different European countries will be keeping a watchful eye on their extraterrestrial "baby".

Forty hours after the *ECS 2* and the *Telcom 1* were lifted into space the all-important impulse was beamed up to the two satellites, each weighing more than 1,200 kilograms: an engine fired which steered them onto their final orbiting course.

However, it will take some time before the "Europeans in space" will be able to use the satellites for phone calls or TV programmes.

The launching of a new rocket is always an exciting and tense experience for the ESOC control staff. After a delayed take-off due to a jammed valve at the third rocket stage there was a general sigh of relief when everything finally went off well this time.

After the successful lift-off the first fifteen minutes, the most critical of the whole flight, also showed "A-OK".

The first stage of the solo flight of the two satellites looked very good. About 20 minutes after take-off the first satellite signals were transmitted to the control centre via the ground station in the African state of Malindi.

Calculations to check whether the projectile was on its projected course also corroborated that everything was working out very satisfactorily.The two satellites entered almost exactly into their elliptical orbit at least 200 km apart and at their highest point of 36,000 kilometres above the Equator. All systems were running smoothly.

It is hoped that the satellites, which cost between DM60m and DM80m and have a life of seven years, will improve the quality of telephone links in Europe, transmit business data and also be used by European TV networks to exchange programmes.

However, it will take six weeks before these tasks can be completed. Stabilisation and test phases are essential before the satellites can become fully operational.

After seven years the fuel reserves will have been exhausted and unable to make the necessary course rectifications, said the director of the Darmstadt Centre, Kurt Heffmann.

According to Heffmann, the launching of the two satellites cost approximately DM90m. The rocket and its launching alone cost DM30m, the development and running costs for each satellite costing a further DM20m to DM30m.

*dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 August 1984)

## ■ LITERATURE

# World-of-fantasy threat to sci-fi reputation

The Science Fiction Congress held in Erlangen at the beginning of August set out to answer some of the questions surrounding this up-and-coming genre of literature.

Science fiction rapidly gained in popularity in Germany at the beginning of the 1980s, and has now been accepted by many of the better-known publishers.

Publishing companies such as Heyne, Ullstein or Suhrkamp have showed remarkable staying power over the years as regards their determined marketing of SF books, and have at long last secured the recognition they deserve.

However, the good reputation which has been gradually established by this genre is threatened by a boom in so-called "fantasy" literature.

This new variation on a theme is a jumbled mixture of laser beams and King Arthur's sword, space gliders and the evil dragon; all in all, an indiscriminate potpourri of fairytale illusions.

The new "intruder" met with a varied response at the SF Congress in Erlangen: some felt that there was no need for undue concern and do not wish to draw a clear dividing line between the more "sophisticated" SF literature and the new variant; others are appalled by the new SF outcast.

The young "fantasy" author, Wolfgang Hohlbein, for example, remarked during the discussion that the content is not that important; the main thing is the way the book is written. No matter how incredible the story, it's the style that counts.

However, the "fantasy" apologists are not willing to accept that this changeling of SF literature is being accompanied by a "renaissance of medieval thinking", as author Thomas R.P. Mielke put it.

And SF writer Kurt Karl Doberer, 80 years old and one of the pioneers of German science fiction (*Elektrokrieg - Mensch gegen Maschine, 1938*), remarked laconically:

"Science fiction must remain logical!"

Author and Japan expert Michael Morgenstern sees no real need for a strict demarcation between "fantasy" and SF, and is "not particularly keen" on such a discussion.

Those who visited the Congress had plenty of opportunity to peruse the controversial material, which was on display in the conference building. Michael Moorcock's "fantasy" cycles, for example, an English writer who was one of the guests of honour among the extremely mixed bunch of SF fans.

The idea of the congress organiser, the German Science Fiction Club, supported financially and technically by the Cultural Affairs Office in Erlangen (which also provided the conference rooms); was to carry out a conference programme covering all types of SF literature.

The ambitious plans did not work exactly as planned. On the first day of the conference, for example, lectures were cancelled and guest speakers failed to turn up.

The eagerly awaited panel discussion on the subject of "Censorship in the Orwellian year" disintegrated into superficial squabbling, even though there were very competent speakers, such as SF author and editor Wolfgang Jeschke, Professor Alfred Tilp and two publishing company representatives.

The intended discussion with the head of the Federal Office for Publications Harmful to Youth also fell through.

He could have answered the question why the book *Der stählerne Traum* (German: The Iron Dream), written by American SF author and Jew Norman Spinrad, was put on the list of indexed books. This book, which is a satire based on the fiction that Hitler is still alive and wandering around the USA, is now only available under the shop counter.

Anyway, his absence put an end to the Orwell discussion. Instead, attention focussed on the "fantasy" problem.

The technical equipment at the conference was very poor. The amplifier was only loud when it began to howl, and it had to battle against the constant wall of noise coming from the drinking table of some very talkative SF fans.

Which brings us on the fans themselves: a very odd species. A mixture of a sworn community and an ordinary club.

Most of them seem to be more interested in a convivial get-together than a discussion on the content of SF books. This was one of the reasons why the high-flying ambitions of the organisers often fell flat.

SF artist Bernhard Stössel found it easier to attract attention with his meticulous drawings of battling robots and ion-driven spacecraft. A future world full of adventure.

The real problems facing us in the future were only touched on briefly by the Congress. In his talk entitled "End of the Road for Science Fiction?", Walter Bühler, for example, referred to a certain scientific scepticism. However, he

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

finished on an optimistic note: "Our industrial society marches on and with it science fiction." It all sounds so easy, but is it?

The more demanding SF literature by authors such as Lem, the Strugatzki brothers, the Brauns in the GDR Franke, Schattschneider, Ballard and Aldiss show a science fiction world which in some way mirrors reality. Those who find this too uninteresting take refuge in the platitudes of the "fantasy" quagmires of the *Star Wars* category.

End of the road for science fiction? Or for its potential readership?

The Science Fiction Congress could have concentrated on more worthwhile topics: self-withdrawal into uncertainty, the horror of the arms race, the sell-out of nature.

The exhibition *Zukunftträume - Bildwelten und Weltbilder der Science-fiction* (Visions of the Future and Science Fiction), currently being held in the Municipal Gallery in Erlangen is more interesting in this respect. For it really shows what is wrong with the science fiction of today - and with society.

*Michael Becker*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 6 August 1984)



Jakob (left) and Wilhelm Grimm . . . a touch of a French connection? (Photo: Harr...)

# New light on origins of Grimm's fairy tales

The Brothers Grimm, who published their famous *Fairy Tales* in 1812 and 1815, would appear to have been incorrect in their assumption that their tales were of an age-old origin.

Folklorist Dr. Dietz-Rüdiger Moser from the University of Freiburg claims that the stories gathered by the "two very first Germanists" were not as traditional as they may have believed.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm composed their immortal anthology of folklore in the true spirit of the Romantic interpretation of literature. The Romantics were up in arms against the rampant ideas of the Enlightenment of the 18th century, which was influencing wide sections of the population with its abundant literary production and emphasis on the all-pervasive power of human reason.

A great deal of that which was regarded as traditional was displaced by this movement, and fairytales, viewed as the inestimable handed-down "heritage of the forefathers", also seemed to be in danger of obliteration.

The Grimm Brothers helped try to save this tradition. Novalis, the German Romantic poet and author of the *Blaue Blume*, felt that the folktale reflected superior view of the world, a vision of a lost "Golden Era". "In fairytales and poems", he believed "we discover the true history of the world".

The Brothers Grimm celebrate their own collection of works as a "stairway to the childhood history of man", showing the way to an unadulterated world full of naivity.

As Freiburg folklore expert Moser points out inthe *Journal für Geschichte (3/1984)* there were also other reasons why the much-praised people's poetry was pushed into the background during this period.

On the one hand, the *Sturm und Drang* period which was on its way out had enhanced the status of personal, individual experience, declaring this to be the primary source of literature and turning away from the womb of *Kollektivdichtung*. On the other hand, the 18th century witnessed a true overflowing of French literature, which the Brothers Grimm tried to counter with their "German national fairytales".

In particular, readily comprehensible French literary fairytales were also very common at this time. However, the latter were too cursorily presented for the Romantics, too shallow and ornate.

The Grimm Brothers regarded their own collection of tales as clear and easy to grasp, for they had been handed down from their forefathers and had been smoothed over during the years.

In an effort to stress the "archaic nature" of their tales, Wilhelm Grimm in particular standardised the narrative, introduced ancient idioms, used the language of the diminutive and thus created for the first time a fairytale language.

However, it looks as of the two "tellers of fairytales" overestimated the traditional elements of their anthology. Folklore researcher Moser feels that much of what was mistakenly believed to be only handed-down tradition was in fact of more recent origin.

In addition, the Brothers owed a great deal of their collected stories to the telling of stories by three Huguenot families which had continued their French cultural heritage after moving to Hesse.

Stangely enough,it was precisely this literary current which the Brothers Grimm hoped to oppose with their fairytales. As it is, it looks as if many of them were just poorly disguised variants of the French literary fairytale style.

*Hänsel und Gretel*, for example, was based on the fairytale *Le petit poucet* by Charles Perrault, *Aschenputtel* (Cinderella) on *Cendrillon*, *Rotkäppchen* (Little Red Riding Hood) on *Le petit chaperon rouge*, *Dornröschen* (Sleeping Beauty) on *La belle au bois dormant* and *Blaubart* (Bluebeard) on *La barbe-bleu*. *Rapunzel* is identical with *Persinette*, published by Charlotte-Rose de Caumont de la Force in 1698.

Furthermore, the two anthologists of yore took up numerous stories by Christian authors as well as many episodes and parables from the Holy Scriptures and superimposed a typical fairytale style on them.

However, folklorist Moser is convinced that what the two "collectors" regarded as a reconstruction of the archaic was in reality a modernisation of the fairytale poetry and Christian prose "in the style of the modern era".

For if Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm did not really touch upon the "early phase of the history of mankind", as they mistakenly believed, their successful collection of fairytales does reflect the true *Zeitgeist* of their age.

*Rolf Degen*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 August 1984)



## ■ THE MEDIA

# Cable viewers in line for a choice of international programmes

Süddeutsche Zeitung

West Germany's second television network (ZDF) has entered a joint production agreement with with the Swiss SRG and the Austrian ÖRF to compile programmes with contributions from all three regional networks.

The project is to begin in December, shortly before Germany starts using cable television to distribute satellite transmissions,

ZDF has been running experimental cable TV projects in Ludwigshafen and Munich.

This new international agreement will be incorporated into these cable schemes.

Viewers will be able to see programmes from all three countries. For example, the Austrian weekly programme, Club 2, which can now be seen only in southern Germany (apart from Austria), will be able to be seen both in Germany and Switzerland.

But although the programmes will be beamed from six in the evening until midnight, viewership will of course be limited.

ZDF planners estimate that the transmissions will start with about a million viewers.

Although this figure seems small (there is a television audience of 23 millions in West Germany) the three-nation agreement is a step forward in the discussion over how electronic media, now opened up to private bidders, are to operate.

The ZDF, pushed forward doggedly by its director, Dieter Stolte, gives ZDF claims on satellite channels so that a sensible scheme can be established.

The new programmes will be mostly repeats — only the joint programmes will be originals — so production costs will be low. Transmission will be the main expense.

This means that viewers will get something new and attractive because the three networks will be able to pay heed to programmes of higher quality.

Highbrow programmes, mostly beamed late, will be able to be put out earlier.

This means that the three countries will be able to exchange programmes, even if, for certain, one or the other will have difficulties. It could happen that the Austrians or Swiss will fear that there is a dominance of programmes from Mainz.

The viewer figure would be increased considerably when the programme as it is conceived at the present is beamed via the direct satellite TV-SAT. This will be in operation from 1986 and ZDF has already applied for a channel.

The establishment of 3 SAT, the name of the cable network, is important for future ZDF programming policies. Dieter Stolte has repeatedly emphasised that his network can only survive when he has the right to beam his own second programme.

There are differences of opinion on the interpretation of the ZDF agreement with the state.

Schleswig-Holstein Premier Uwe Barschel has said quite clearly that he would not agree to a second programme for the Mainz network.

Using 3 SAT, he will be able to submit this demand through the backdoor, when the Mainz organisation is asked one day to produce for this programme a new transmission and not to use repeats.

Stolte's smart tactics for the future of the media are altogether quite uncanny for Union politicians. Stolte was defeated by the ZDF administrative council in an area that had appeared to be irrelevant.

The council refused to promote deputy programme director Peter Gerlach to be a director responsible for the new ZDF programmes that come under the ZDF wing, after he made a condition of his appointment that he would remain at the same time deputy programme director for ZDF's own programmes.

Only those who know how close Stolte and Gerlach were in the past can appreciate that this appointment question is not just an organisational measure.

Tough political motives played a part. Gerlach, a member of the SPD, was Stolte's favoured candidate for the appointment of programme director.

The Union politicians saw this position in conjunction with the appointment of an SPD editor-in-chief.

They became anxious that there would be an excess of SPD people at director level. And at the same time the smart director would be shown that with all his "chess moves" he should not forget the politicians.

*Karl-Otto Saur*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 July 1984)

# Forces station has a big illegal audience

The British Forces Broadcasting Service in Germany (BFBS), is aimed at the 165,000 British servicemen and their families in West Germany.

For 39 years, BFBS has been putting on pop music, quiz and chat shows and sports programmes.

The station, beamed from Cologne, is much loved by civilians as well as soldiers and their families.

But it is also an oddity. Officially only army personnel are meant to tune in, not West German or British civilians. But they do.

The actual audience can possibly be counted by the millions, because from quite recently the transmission area has been increased.

So while the official audience remains small, the unofficial one is huge.

West German listeners are sometimes mystified by the station.

Karl-Heinz Angsten, who is responsible for the station's West German news broadcasts, tells a story of a telephone call from a woman listener.

She praised the musical programme, although she could not understand a word that was said. "Why do you speak all the time in English?" she asked.

BFBS Germany is the longest-operating British servicemen's radio station in the world (there are stations, for example, in Holland, Belgium, Cyprus and Nepal).

It started up in Hamburg's *Musikhalle* on 29 July, 1945, with a staff of 200 and three orchestras directed, for example, by Furtwängler and Karajan.

Bert Kämpfert, Caterina Valente and Helmut Zacharias were frequent guests.

Then the staff was drastically reduced. On 26 February 1954 the station moved to Cologne. The West German government gave it the use of two villas.

Today a staff of 50 provide programmes right round the clock in four studios. There are "branch offices" in West Berlin and Bielefeld

The station works together with West German stations, mainly in exchanging music. BFBS, for instance, has one of the best collections of 78 rpm records in West Germany.

Programmes are made up of tapes from London, live transmissions from Britain, BBC programmes sold to stations abroad, and locally produced programmes — 30 per cent.

The programme from midnight until two in the morning, Night Shift, is particularly popular.

Listeners can ring up and chat to the announcer and fool around. Sometimes things get a little out of hand. But the station has thought up a few smart questions so as to estasblish swiftly if the caller is with the army or not, if he can be let into the broadcast or not.

The news is picked up from the BBC London, revised with West German news items picked up from DPA, the West German news agency.

BFBS station director Dick Norton said: "European events and human interest stories are important for us."

And of course sport is fully covered with football and live coverage of other sports.

BFBS does not have many problems, at least so the station's security people believe. Dick Norton said: "Listeners usually get worked up in a positive way."

In 1975 BFBS began to beam television programmes from Rheindahlen, but West German viewers cannot pick these BBC and ITV programmes up without additional equipment.

*Emmanuel van Stein*

(Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger, 10 July 1984)

# Forty foreign senders beam short-wave into Germany

Hundreds of thousands of Germans tune in regularly to any one of 40 foreign stations broadcasting in the German language.

Almost all West European countries and most of the East Bloc transmit between thirty minutes and four hours daily.

Senders outside Europe include Japan, Egypt, Brazil, China, North and South Korea, Nigeria and Brazil. Taiwan, India and Israel are planning programmes.

Almost all these stations report about their own country, to give a better understanding of their national problems, to present a good image of the country, its products and its tourist attractions.

Wolfgang Scheunemann, president of the West German Radio Club (DWRC) founded in 1982, says: "Short-wave is the only medium left where there is free competition to provide information. The more crises there are the more important short-wave becomes for the individual. It is possible to get a lot of information from a lot of countries via short-wave," according to Wolfgang Scheunemann, president of the West German Radio Club (DWRC), founded in 1982.

He has a considerable interest in German-language broadcasts from abroad and strives to support these broadcast abroad and at home. The Club, headquartered in Cologne, as 124 members.

There are a number of reasons why German broadcasts from abroad are popular in this country. Firstly they provide businessmen with information on economic affairs from all over the world.

There is then the interest in the country, the people or particular folk music and more and more people take language courses as a result of this interest.

Those who listen to broadcasts worldwide, international listeners, of which there are 10,000 in an association, are particularly active.

Their hobby is to tune in to as many short-wave broadcasts as possible. They write to the transmitting stations and report on the broadcasts they have heard and on the reception.

New in the internatinal ether are North and South Korea, Nigeria and Brazil. Taiwan, Israel and India are planning German-language broadcasts.

All that is needed to receive these broadcasts usually is an ordinary short-wave radio even when the tuner is not particularly good.

The fans, however, use a world radio that costs between DM200 and DM500.

The largest and oldest radio geared to overseas is Radio Moscow, established before the Voice of America or the BBC. It has the most extensive German-language programmes.

In this country the most popular foreign station is the BBC. The quality of the news reports are highly regarded. Then follows Radio France and Radio Sweden.

According to Scheunemann the most astonishing policy change has taken place in Peking.

"The previous boring doctrinaire programmes have now been replaced," he says.

"Instead of the endless reports on success in this and that, objective reports on cultural events, technology and economic affairs are broadcast."

*Emmanuel van Stein*

(Kolner-Stadt Anzeiger, 10 August 1984)

■ CONSUMER PROTECTION

# Salmonella and maggots and other tasty fare for the gourmandiser

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Lice and sand in the flour, a mouse in the bottle or maggots in the chocolate - just some of the more unpleasant things discovered in the 51,000 food samples examined by food inspectors in Rhineland-Palatinate in 1983.

However, apart from those who have personally experienced such close encounters the consumer's emotions are more easily stirred by headlines on the toxic substance contained in our food.

The problem of harmful substances in our food and drink has become a burning issue of controversy. Are consumers being unnecessarily scared or is the criticism of our food justified?

This was the central discussion topic at a special symposium held in Mainz and organised by the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of the Environment. Scientific experts, food control specialists, consumers, environmental protectionists and politicians were invited to contribute towards de-emotionalising the discussion on harmful substances in foodstuffs and help provide an improved orientation for consumers confronted by contradictory reports on this problem.

How important are these substances? Are stricter food controls required?

A central theme running through all papers and contributions to the discussion was the difficulties facing scientists when trying to determine tolerable concentration levels for harmful substances in food.

There is a lack of basic research on the problem of proper danger thresholds and on the exact extent of health risks for humans (can the findings of experiments on animals be applied to man?).

Most threshold levels for harmful substances have been arbitrarily fixed taking into account the aspects of greatest possible safety, particularly in the case of carcinogenic substances.

Professor Johannes Friedrich Diehl from the Federal Nutritional Science Office in Karlsruhe had a few comforting words to say to the consumer. He feels that existing laws and control measures are quite adequate, criticising many of the statements published on the subject of "Poison in Foodstuffs" as an unnecessary scaremongering of the consumer.

The fact that the Ecology Institute recently issued information pamphlets depicting a human skull in a soup-bowl with crossed bones on the cover, and then referring to the harmful substance X in the food Y without explaining whether or not small quantities of the substances are at all a hazard to health, is certainly not an example worth following, said Diehl.

The scientists from Karlsruhe emphasise that neither the average life expectancy figures for citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany nor the health statistics indicate that our food contains any form of poison.

According to Diehl, the fact that in the public rating of food-related health risks harmful substances in food come first, followed by additives, is a sign of how successful the scaremongerers have been. For additives are subjected to most stringent tests and are unimportant when assessing risks to human health.

The third most important risk firmly embedded in public awareness are incorrect eating habits.

However, in the opinion of the scientists the true order of importance is completely different.

Eating habits are the number one risk. In second place, we find the pathogenic microorganisms - 50,000 West Germans suffer from salmonella infections every year. The third most significant risk are natural toxic substances, whereas the harmful substances in food are only regarded as the fourth most important health risk factor.

The environmental protectionists felt of course that Diehl was playing down the real problems. PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl, a product related to DDT) in the mother's milk proves him wrong, they claimed.

In response to this accusation Diehl pointed out that, considering the already existing content in foodstuffs, we would have nothing at all to eat if PCB were banned. The only feasible answer to existing problems, therefore, is to determine practicable threshold values.

What is more, there are no signs that anybody's health has suffered because of PCB, even though it cannot of course be ruled out that damage could occur.

Professor Rolf Preussmann from the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg discussed the subject of genotoxicological environmental pollulants.

Although the majority of scientific test findings would suggest that carcinogenic substances have a genotoxicological effect, there are no threshold limits beyond which a substance could be classified as being cancerogenic.

Scientists and politicians must work out some kind of model for a socially tolerable risk assesment, now that the idea of zero-risk has proved to be an illusion.

On the subject of "social acceptance" Professor Preussmann called to mind the fact that 50,000 people in the Federal Republic of Germany die each year as a result of cigarette smoking. This is accepted without any decisive efforts on the part of the government to combat this addiction.

A representative of the Kaiserslautern Environment Foundation felt there was a link between allergies and chemicals in our environment. Multiple food allergies leading to extremely serious psychological disorders can already be caused by small doses of pesticides and herbicides, she said.

Professor Diehl remarked that there

Continued on page 15



# Today's shopper 'critical towards food'

According to a recent study conducted by the *Gesellschaft für Konsumforschung (GFK)*, well over a third of all consumers are wary of certain foods being sold.

Most reservations were expressed with regard to ready-to-serve meals, injected fruit and vegetables, fresh meat and canned meat, fresh fish and canned fish and sausage meat.

47 per cent are particularly critical when it comes to the ingredients of products which have recently come onto the market. 42 per cent take a closer look when they buy products for the first time.

Only four per cent of all respondents were so careful with brand-name products.

Although the current critical potential is no too large, the number of critical consumers is on the rise. A major factor is seen to be the role of the media.

The only way to boost the image of industrially processed foods in the mind of the consumer is to launch an offensive public information campaign, the study says.

This is the idea behind an association of twelve well-known food companies formed last year in Munich. The food producers are attempting to "inform" the consumers about the "situation" and help remove the spreading uncertainty.

Although the image of the "new consumer" which emerged towards the end of the 1970s looks like becoming more of a cliche than anything else, the GFK sees two main emerging trend changes in consumer behaviour:

- Today's consumers are more critical, informed and self-confident in their appraisal of conventional advertising content.
- They are willing to prefer that which is basic and natural, to return to "rustical" values.

Rüdiger Szallies, who presented the study on behalf of the GFK in Munich, regards it as an "interesting" phenomenon that the under 30 year-olds (who are perhaps the most satisfied with what the food industry has to offer than older persons, in particular the 40 to 50 year-olds, 47% of whom stated their reservations.

Of the 35 per cent of consumers who are critical to wary of foods on the market, 18 per cent would like to see less chemicals used, 16 per cent less packaging, 13 per cent less canned foods, eleven per cent lower prices, seven per cent more exact details on the packets and five per cent more natural products.

Asked about individual products, there were hardly any misgivings with regard to condensed milk, cheese and crisps whereas consumers were most suspicious of the latest ready-to-serve meal of fried potatoes wrapped in aluminium, dried meals, ravioli and ready-to serve desserts.

However, only nine per cent of buyers read what's on the pack, 50 per cent do so ocassionally and 41 per cent never at all.

Thirty-nine per cent, however, would like to see information on the best-before date written on the product packaging, 24 per cent information on the ingredients and eight per cent on preservatives.

Eighteen per cent of respondents pay a great deal of attention to the details on ingredients, 50 per cent not so much and 27 per cent are not at all interested in this information.

*Karl Stankiewitz*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 25 July 1984)



■ MEDICINE

# Photo technique aims to reveal pattern of nerve diseases

DIE WELT

Scientific photographer Bernhardt Brill has developed a new photographic technique he calls chronophotography which will enable a more exact illustration of the course of certain medical disorders such as Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease, which usually affects older people, interferes with the patient's selective motor activity. Named after the English physician, James Parkinson, the shaking palsy, paralysis *agitans*, either slows down movements or, if hyperkinetic disorders occur, accelerates them in an uncontrolled way.

Many persons suffering from the disease find it difficult, for example, to raise a fork to their mouths. If asked to stand up, some sufferers need a certain amount of time before beginning to tackle what has become a difficult task.

Brill, who heads his own Institute for Photoanalysis in Hofgeismar-Carlsdorf, has been causing a stir in his profession for some years with his unusual and often astounding photographs in the fields of the scanning microscope, thermography as well as X-ray and short-time photography. He feels that chronophotography will help doctors establish a more reliable diagnosis.

The idea behind his new technique is to "freeze" typical movement patterns with the camera, i.e. to use a series of stills rather than moving pictures.

Brill does without the "discotheque character" of a stroboscope-flashlight device, where the patient sits in front of a dark background and is "illuminated" at short intervals to document all the motional phases on one and the same photo. This method is often a great irritation to the patient.

As Bernhardt Brill explains:

"We decided to use a rotating sector disc (diameter approx. 30cm) which moves in front of the camera at a constant rotational speed.

"The photos are taken at ten hertz, i.e. ten phase photos per second. The film is only exposed when the two cut-out sectors of the disc, which face each other at an angle of 180 degrees, pass by the lens - the angle of aperture is between three and five degrees.

"We have completed pairs of photos for a whole series of different phases. This way we can even analyse the way the patient stands up more exactly.

"The diseased person's ability to walk (course motoricity) is also examined more closely. Even chronographs of persons climbing over a step can be a great help."

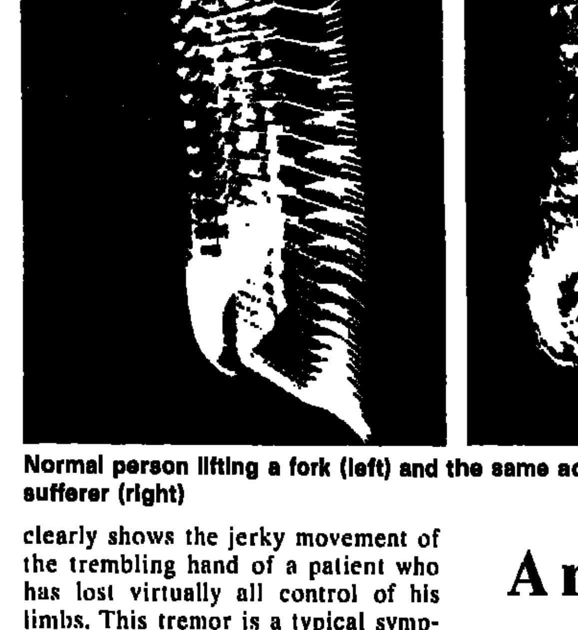
The photographic studies also revealed that problems of fine motoricity become particularly apparent when patients are asked use their finger to trace the course of a light moving along a line at a fixed speed.

As Bernhardt Brill points out:

"Chronophotography is ideal for keeping track of the rehabilitation progress of persons who have suffered a stroke or polio during their childhood."

Brill photographs patients in the Parkinson Clinic in Kassel as soon as they are admitted.

"Most of them stay there for about six weeks", says Brill."A second photo is taken after three weeks and a final one a few days before patients are discharged." Brill's conclusion: the degree of rehabilitation success is definitely quantifiable. In order to show the motional pattern when raising a fork to the mouth, Brill lights up the hand and fork only, using spotlights. Black velvet gauntlets wrapped around the forearm, and a completely darkened background, ensure that only relevant features are photographed. The picture above (left) clearly shows the jerky movement of the trembling hand of a patient who has lost virtually all control of his limbs. This tremor is a typical symptom of Parkinson's Disease.



Normal person lifting a fork (left) and the same action by Parkinson's Disease sufferer (right)

(Photos: Bernhardt Brill)

The photo on the right shows the steady pattern of movement demonstrated by a healthy test person. Even a layman can see the difference straight away.

This extremely effective and evidential method not only facilitates a diagnosis of the course of Parkinson's Disease but can also help monitor the path of development of other neurological disorder.

This photographic procedure could also serve as "proof" of the extent of rehabilitation success.

Chronophotos are not only useful additions to medical reports but this form of objectivisation can help reduce fluctuations in doctor's evaluations of diseases.

*Dieter Thierbach*

(Die Welt, 4 August 1984)

# Illness drives women to gorging food

According to J. Brand-Jacobi of the Psychopathological Research Department of the University of Göttingen, a growing number of young women suffer from bulimia, a pathological craving for food.

Finding published in the magazine *Psychotherapie und medizinische Psychologie* reveal that these women are almost counterpoles to women who suffer from *anorexia nervosa*.

An insatiable hunger results in veritable orgies of guzzling at intervals of a few days or weeks.

After the "feast" most women feel overfull and are terrified of getting fat, which is why they often make themselves vomit immediately afterwards or take large quantities of laxatives.

Most of the women suffering from bulimia are aware of the fact that their behaviour is pathological but are simply ashamed to tell their doctor. They are also tormented by a sense of guilt.

This explains why up to now bulimia was assumed to be a rare disease.

However, a survey of female students revealed that 12 per cent had at some time in the past forced themselves to vomit after gorging food and as many as 68 per cent admit to having gorged occasionally.

J. Brand-Jacobi believes that women who suffer from this problem also find it difficult to control their cravings in other respects.

This assumption is backed by the discovery that 21 per cent of the patients in this particular survey take drugs and 10 per cent are excessive drinkers.

In the case of bulimia laxatives cannot prevent an increase in weight, since the waste matter excreted from the bowels only contains more water and salts than during normal digestion.

This was shown by experiments on two female bulimia sufferers and four healthy test persons. After a thorough cleansing of the gastro-intestinal tract test persons were given a meal with a predetermined calorie content and a non-resorptive marked substance as tracer.

The stool was then collected and the calorie content determined until the marked substance had been completely excreted.

In a second test the young women took 12 to 50 tablets of a well-known American laxative (cf. *Annals of Internal Medicine, vol.99, p.14)*. The taking of laxatives led to a loss of water of three to seven litres. The difference in calorie content, on the other hand, was only marginal.

Test meals had a calorie content of 2,400 calories. Without laxatives 2,200 calories were resorbed, with laxatives 2,100. The difference of 100 calories corresponds to a 25 gram piece of white bread.

Laxatives, therfore, do not really help reduce weight, and can in fact lead to a dangerous deprivation of salts and water. They stimulate the large intestine, whereas resorption of the nutrients takes place in the small intestine.

Both of the young women suffering from bulimia who took part in the test have now stopped using laxatives.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 August 1984)

# A mental side to origin of migraine

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Attacks of migraine are not only caused by physical strain, changes in the weather or menstruation but can also be triggered by psychogenic stress.

In a test conducted by T.W. Knapp from the Justus Liebig University of Giessen, the results of which were published in the magazine *Psychotherapie und medizinische Psychologie (vol.34, p.198)*, twenty female migraine patients were compared with twenty healthy women.

Contrary to existing assumptions, Knapp discovered that migraine patients do not suffer more frequently from depression or thoughts of suicide and are just as fond of life as healthy persons. They experience their ups and downs just like anybody else.

However, they react more strongly to stress situations and are not as able to cope with unpleasant experiences.

This would suggest that migraine is a result of an over-reaction to psychological stress and should consequently be treated via psychotherapy.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 August 1984)

# Senior staff not sick so often

On average West German executives were off sick only half as often as their lower-grade colleagues last year.

According to a survey by the Employers Association of German Insurance Companies "senior staff" were only absent from work on four days whereas the lower-grade employees took nine days off.

The general trend was: the higher the grade and thus degree of qualification and responsibility, the lower the number of persons off sick.

*dpa*

(Die Welt, 10 August 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

# Butcher prepares for big bang: bacon and beans in a bunker

DIE ZEIT

Otto Velten's front door is made out of heavy duty steel. "We have often been broken into," he explains.

The huge living room with wooden wainscoting ("*I did it all myself*") has a beautiful view on to a richly planted terrace.

It is only when you take a closer look that you realise that the bushes and shrubs are enclosed in military quality barbed wire. Burglars, explains Velten, can also get into the house over the terrace.

Velten, a self-employed master butcher from Steele, a town east of Essen in the Ruhr, is a man who doesn't let himself get upstaged. He's athletic, bursting with energy and clothed in an elegantly casual style. He is uncompromisingly machismo.

When it comes to things like security, he's not the sort of person to let himself be placed in the hands of some sleepy government department. He would rather do it himself.

Three years ago, Velten first thought of building a bunker as a protection against nuclear attack. The idea came to him as his shop and multi-apartment house in Steele's shopping centre were being renovated.

*At the time, the theme of arms mod*ernisation and deployment in Europe was topical.

So the bunker was built. And the 44-year-old Velten has not thought just about his family. The bunker has been built big enough (85 square metres, or 915 square feet) to take 50 people. So the 15 employees in the shop and their families plus the tenants of the flats are all booked in to survive a nuclear holocaust.

Velten has already a close relationship with all of his potential nuclear guests and occasions such as birthdays and Christmasses are communally celebrated there.

The bunker has been equipped in style. In the middle there is a large horseshoe bar with bistro table and benches finished in wood.

One wall comprises a mirror. A stereo set, colour television and a telephone, and a chemical toilet with special ventilation have been built in.

Canned food has been laid in and there is a radiation-proof suit. There is a second room with tiers of bunks.

The whole edifice cost him 180,000 marks, and no, he doesn't feel privileged at being in a position to provide a bunker. Every 10-home block of flats could afford a similar bunker, he says, if each family just gave up their holiday one year.

In addition, he says the state helps out. In his case it contributed 16,800 marks.

He has had to notify the appropriate government department of substitutes if the originally named team does not make the bunker in emergency in case of war breaking out, for example, at a weekend or after shopping hours when people can be expected to be away.

So, for good or bad, Velten has named the occupants of two neighbouring houses.

"But," he says. "What happens when war breaks out during shopping hours? Then everybody might want to get inside," workers, tenants and neighbours. Ninety people, all told, and there wouldn't be room for them all.

"There might be a shoot out in front of the bunker. And after all that, it could be a false alarm."

Velten complains that next to nothing is laid down about nuclear protection bunkers. Nowhere does it say how thick the walls should be or how the ventilation shafts should be arranged.

And he has had to draw the attention of the civil defence authorities to a risk: there is a chance that high water might block the exit and stop people getting out when the all-clear is sounded.

So he has had a shaft built so in an emergency, people can emerge through a hatch much in the fashion of a submariner.

To test the air outside, a radioactive detection device has been installed. It involves a sensitive tube on the outside wall connected to a meter inside.

Otto Velten radiates both a desire to survive and confidence. He says with unshakeable conviction that in a nuclear war, nothing is certain, at least when the bomb doesn't land in the middle of Essen, three miles west of Steele.

If it lands in Bochum, six miles east of Steele, "our survival chances would not be too bad."

He is still concerned by the probable warning time, estimated at between four and five minutes. It would be enough for him to grab some ham from the shop before vanishing under the earth.

But the bunker has its uses aside from nuclear protection. "Imagine terrorists getting hold of a bomb, or a nuclear power station exploding," says Velten.

In that case a bunker would guarantee survival. And in the event of a smog alarm, the filtered ventilation system would make it an ideal sanatorium for asthmatics, for example.

*Roland Kirbach*

(Die Zeit, 3 August 1984)

Otto Velten (without mask) and friend sample bunker social life. (Photo: Metzendorf)

# German couple halfway round the world by bicycle

"Believe me, cycling is hard work. There's nothing romantic about it," says Wolfgang Reiche, 37, a vocational school teacher from Bremen.

Reiche is reasonably well-placed to comment. He was speaking in New Delhi during a round the world cycle tour with his partner, Gudrun Brardt.

They have taken three years to pedal 50,000 kilometres to reach New Delhi after setting out on 18 July, 1981.

They have been to all continents, across deserts, over mountains, and through jungle.

The idea of making such a trip occurred six years ago when Reiche found himself unemployed despite having passed his teaching examinations.

As a child he wanted to get out and see the world, and this was his chance.

Eventually he got a teaching job, but this did not deter him. At the end of 1980, he placed advertisements in travel publications in an effort to find a travelling companion.

He received 35 replies, including one from Gudrun, now 33, who at the time was working as a foreign language secretary in Spain.

The two made a 10-day trip together to test the water and decided to go ahead.

They set off with 20,000 marks and first went to Holland, then down to Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. They flew with their bicycles to Brazil and rode south in daily stages of 100 kilometres through Uruguay to Argentina, then over the Andes to Chile, and then back north.

On the way they had to pedal 4000 kilometres across desert and climb 4500 metres into the Bolivian mountains. One of their most memorable experiences was descending the last 130 kilometres into Lima, downhill all the way, recalls Gudrun with appreciation.

They went on to Ecuador where, in Guayaquil, they boarded the German-Panama boat, MS Nektarine, to sail to California. The captain charged them nothing.

It was a shock coming to America after the quiet and solitude of the empty spaces of South America. They rode round California, but then quickly left behind the hectic life in favour of ... again, this time Australia.

They were six months in Australia and managed to replenish their funds, running low after more than a year on the road, by taking odd jobs on route.

Then off to Asia. First Indonesia, to Bali, Java and Sumatra, and then on to Singapore, to Malaysia, up to Thailand and through to Nepal.

They flew across Burma and at the end of April, reached India.

So far they have avoided serious accident. Gudrun says their worst enemies were trucks and buses, especially in Third World countries. They have had a hundred punctures and have worn out ... pairs of tyres.

Three years together have not been altogether uncomplicated, they say. But despite spending 24 hours a day together for three years, they have managed to avoid full-scale rows.

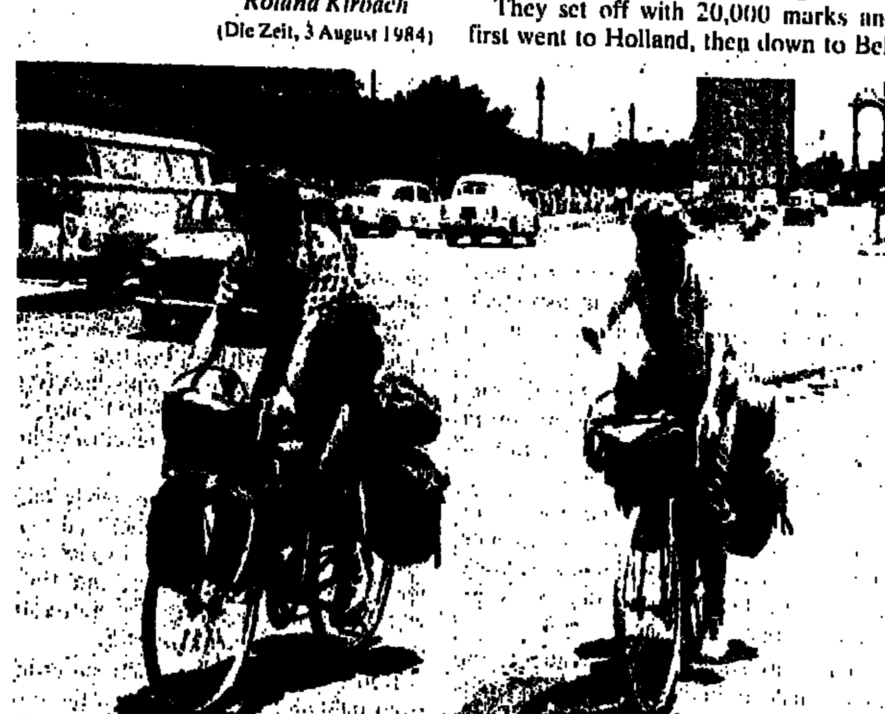
Originally, the trip was to have been for just two years, but in Peru, where Wolfgang wanted to have a six-month stopover for study, they agreed on an extension.

Financially they have survived by being extremely frugal. One useful recipe was for a sort of gruel which kept the wolf from the door at a mere handful of pfennigs a time. And the ate whatever local dishes were available.

They reckon on doing another 70,000 kilometres before getting back home. Then there will be plenty of time to think of the future. On a tandem or not, for example.

*Christian Fürst*

(Die Welt, 7 August 1984)



Wolfgang Reiche and Gudrun Brandt in New Delhi . . . 100 punctures, more to come. (Photo: dpa)

ARCHAEOLOGY

# Traces of a Roman country villa horror unearthed

The remains of a Roman country villa have been unearthed in Harling, near Regensburg, Bavaria. The discovery was made during excavations for a BMW car plant.

Experts from the Munich preservation of ancient monuments office discovered skeletal remains of 30 people in fountains in the courtyard of the villa, traces of an horrific drama that took place at the beginning of the period of the migration of peoples.

Some of the men were possibly killed in combat, but most of the remains were of people, possibly the farmers's family and servants, who had been tortured and then killed. The bodies had been cut up into small pieces and thrown into the fountains which were then covered with stones.

The event took place, according to an ancient history expert from Regensburg, during one of the invasions of the Alemanni or the Juthungen, a member tribe of the Alemanni. The whole tribe overran, before finally conquering, the region occupied by the Romans, the former land of the Celts.

The crime probably occurred at the end of the third century Before Christ. In the massacre the victims were ritually consumed.

The site of the country villa is about ... metres square. It has living quarters, stables, barns, a mill and a Roman bath that was part of civilised living north of the Alps.

The farm, *villae rusticae*, was probably awarded to a legion veteran who would develop the land and at the same time confirmed Rome's position on the frontier.

The remains of the dead in the fountains are of a relatively small, dainty people, probably Romans or Italic peoples.

Farms of the size of the one in Harting were what we would today call a family farm, worked by the owner, his family and servants. It seems that everyone in the farm ended up in the fountains.

In one fountain that provided water for the bath the remains of four men, three women and two children or boys or girls were found.

Peter Schröder of the Munich anthropological collection believes that this was the owner's family. About half of the skulls show a marked anomoly, seldom encountered, htat was still apparent in the aged, a furrow in the forehead. It is likely that the people were genetically of the same tribe.

In the second fountain there were remains of a man, a woman and child and a person who cannot be fully identified. It is assumed that these people were servants.

The condition of the remains of thirteen of the people, particularly those from the "bath fountain", the family of the owner, were shocking. Only the shattered skulls of most were left. Close by are small pieces of bone dispersed all over the place. There is only one full skeleton from the second fountain.

The skulls of some of the men were shattered by a blow from a sharp weapon, perhaps a sword or a battle axe. The others had been shattered by a blunt object used with enormous force.

In most cases the blows were dealt to the forehead. Almost all had broken inner frontal bones. In some cases the back of the skull was damaged as if the head had been laid upon a hard object before the blow.

There were incisions in the women's skulls similar to the cut by a scalpel. After the death blow they had been scalped. It was not possible to do this to the men because Romans wore their hair short.

All the skulls were cut cleanly off from the body. The bone remains are so smashed into small pieces that they cannot be related to the skulls. There are a series of small cuts on the thigh bones, as if the people had been tortured and skinned.

There are few groin remains but many remains of breast bones or the pelvis which had been slashed by a sharp instrument as if cut up by a butcher.

It is certain that these people met a cruel death by torture. The dismembering is macabre. It can only be assumed that the conquerors, after having tortured their victims to death consumed them.

The experts are loathe to commit themselves. Complete evidence is lacking, but there is no other explanation for the marks and dismembering.

It would be unjust to give the Germanic invaders a reputation for naked cannibalism.

For a cannibalistic meal the brain was poked out of the skull and long bones were splintered to get at the marrow, as was common in the Stone Age. This had not happened with these finds.

Consuming the human flesh of a defeated enemy was probably a ritual. The breast bone was shattered so as to get at the heart of the dead person to eat it — similar ideas are expressed in the *Siegfriedlied*. A person's qualities were acquired by eating the heart, and the victims of this dedication were sacrificed to a deity.

These rituals with human victims were practised for a long period in Europe. There is evidence that they took place at the turn of the era according to evidence found at the "Roman-German Commission" dig in the celtic "city" at Manching on the Danube.

Scalping was practised in Europe over thousands of years (the North American Indians learned this from the invading Europeans). This was dealt with recently by Siegfried Anger and Alfred Dieck in the *Bonner Heften für Urgeschichte* (Bonn monographs on pre-history).

It was practised during witch hunts and approved by the Christian Church and in the exercise of justice when torture was applied.

It is accepted that what happened at the Harting site had a ritual backgroung for along with the remains found in the fountain were the weapons used to kill the victims. These included a massive fire shovel with which skulls were split. The fountain was finally filled up with stones.

The Harting find is reminiscent of the Karst Cavern in Swabian Jura into which human beings were thrown as offerings to subterranean gods.

The zest for battle during the period of migration of peoples oftenled to such bloody scenes.

The Roman military historian Ammianus Marcellinus (circa AD 330 to circa 393) recorded that when the Goths invaded in 378 people were tortured, cut to pieces and scalped. Ammianus has been regarded as a reliable historian but with the finds of the massacre at Harting he has been totally confirmed.

The archaelogists at the dig believe that what happened involving the Alemanni or Juthung tribes was not a single occurance. The location of a dozen "villae rusticae" in the environs of Regensburg are well known but they have not been investigated. It is hard to believe that the first to be unearthed would be the only one that told the story of a massacre of victims. It is likely that an investigation of other sites will reveal similar events.

*Harald Steinert*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 August 1984)



Easter Island's conundrum (Photo: dpa)

# German factor in Pacific island puzzle

One of Easter Island's major puzzles would be solved if it can be accepted that the first settlers on the Pacific island were north German seamen.

Munich archaeologist Professor Kurt Horedt has come up with some informative and unexpected evidence for this theory.

The original inhabitants of the most easterly of the Polynesian island troubled future generations with the giant statues of black volcanic rock and wooden panels inscribed with pussling hieroglyphic picture script.

The panels are unique in the culture of the area. They include 790 figure symbols. They saw the light of day together with the statues as high as a house about AD 1100 and are probably more likely to be memory aids for a story than letters telling a story.

Professor Horedt believes that the hieroglyphics are similar in many ways to the find from the "Gallehus-Horn A" dig, two golden German horns discovered at Gallehus in north Schleswig, the first in 1639 and the second in 1734.

The horn that has been dated from AD 400 has at its opening a two-line script made up of nine various figures which, like the panels on Easter Island, cannot be deciphered.

The style and manner of the two scripts are astonishingly alike. Seven of the nine Gallehus symbols are very similar to the symbols on the panels.

Professor Horedt takes the view that the similarity is not accidental but that the two are related in some way.

It has been suggested that in the period between the production of the Gallehus horns and the beginning of the "Middle Period" in the eleventh century north Germans reached Easter Island and influenced cultural development.

This would explain why the facial features of the giant statues are similar to European faces.

The statues are completely unrepresentative of Polnesian culture in the region. Many have a sharp profile, narrow lips and a wide chin.

Heavy red cylindrical stones made of clinker could have been tufts of red hair placed on the statue's skulls.

*Rolf Degen*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 August 1984)

Continued from page 12

is considerable dispute on whether substances in the environment are responsible for allergies. As yet no reliable facts and figures have been presented.

Professor Hans-Werner Schlipköter from the Düsseldorf-based Institute for Environmental Hygiene also dealt with the subject of uncertain threshold for harmful substances. The EEC threshold for lead (35 micrograms per 100 millilitres of blood), for example, is regarded as too high by Dutch scientists, a view shared by Schlipköter at least in the case of sensitive groups of the population such as children, pregnant woman and the elderly.

It is indubitable that too much lead in the blood plays a part in functional disorder of the peripheral nervous system and has adverse effects on the brain. Although children suffering from from permanent lead pollution have shown no decrease in intelligence, there has been an impairment of the child's concentrational powers.

The director of the Federal Health Office's main Statistical Evaluation Centre, Professor Peter Weigert, complained about the lack of a representative analysis of the role of harmful substances in foodstuffs.

Weigert called for a standardised system of regular observations, measurements and evaluations by food-control inspectors.

He announced that the Rhineland-Palatinate Food Control Unit would soon be introducing such a "monitoring" programme.

*Heidi Parade*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 July 1984)